

Proving God Exists | Is Belief Reasonable?

4 Explanations for Reality

Illusion

- René Descarte, 1600s philosopher — “I think, therefore I am” — Journey of Skepticism
- If you doubt that you exist, what cannot be doubted? What does doubt require?
- For there to be an illusion, what two things have to exist?
- Law of Non-Contradiction—something cannot be and not be at the same time and in the same relationship
- Law of Causality—every effect must have an antecedent clause

Self-created

- To create itself, what would have to be true?
- Oft-used term: (*gradual*) *spontaneous generation*—“can’t get something from nothing quickly; it takes time”
- What does *ex nihilo, nihil fit* mean?
- Time + chance = everything. What is chance? What power or influence does it have?

Self-existent

- Not the same as self-creation, as it doesn’t violate the 2 laws.
- If there was ever a time when there was *absolutely nothing*, then what could there possibly be now?
- A self-existent singularity? Newton’s law of motion—without an outside force, there either never would have been a “big bang” or it would have already happened and the universe would be cold and dead by now. So what caused the bang?
- Transcendent: the “outside force” that was necessary. R.C. Sproul: “*If you’re saying that there is some unknown, invisible, immeasurable pulsating point or core within the boundaries of the universe, that is itself self-existent and eternal, from which everything else is generated... Now we are just arguing over its name, whether the name of it is X or Yahweh. But no matter how you slice it, you’re forced back ultimately to a self-existent, eternal being.*”

Created by something that is self-existent

- Aristotle (300 BC): recognized that an “unmoved mover” or “uncaused cause” was necessary to account for reality
- What is the Teleological Argument?
- Can you have design unintentionally?
- Our solar system operates under such minute tolerances, it’s like having thousands of dials to control all the parameters, and if even one is only slightly out of whack, life is impossible.
- Can you have design without a designer, intention unintentionally, purpose by accident, or intelligence unintelligently? Design comes only through intelligent intention, both of which are only possible with personality. If there is design in the universe, and it’s really inescapable that there is (even atheists like Kant realized this), then this self-existent eternal something that is responsible for generating the universe as we find it must be a self-existent, eternal, *intelligent* being, and if intelligent, then personal. And if personal, then we have moved away from abstractions and landed squarely on the pages of the Bible.