

The Cosmic First Cause

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1. Aquinas: The Argument from Change

- (1) We observe with our senses that there is a sequential order of physical causes.
- (2) There is no case known (neither is it, indeed, possible) in which a thing is found to be the physical cause of itself.
- (3) It is not possible to go back to infinity in the sequence of physical causes.
- (4) Therefore it is necessary to admit a first physical cause.
- (5) Everyone refers to this first physical cause as God.

2. The First Physical Cause is the Big Bang

- (1) There exists a first physical cause.
- (2) The first physical cause is the Big Bang.
- (3) Everyone refers to this first physical cause as God.
- (4) Therefore: God is the Big Bang.

3. The Endless Chain of Gods

- (1) God is an infinite person.
- (2) Every person is complex.
- (3) Therefore: God is infinitely complex.
- (4) Every complex thing is created by something else.
- (5) Therefore: God was created something else.
- (6) Any cause is at least as great as its effect.
- (7) The creator of God is Super-God.
- (8) Therefore: Super-God exists.
- (9) Since Super-God is complex, Super-God has a creator.
- (10) The creator of Super-God is Super-Duper-God.
- (11) Therefore: Super-Duper-God exists.
- (12) But the reasoning in 9 to 11 can be repeated endlessly.
- (13) So every god is caused by some previous greater god.
- (14) So there is no first cause.

4. The Cause of our Universe is some Previous Universe

- (1) Everything that *has a beginning* has a cause.
- (2) The universe has a beginning.
- (3) Therefore: the universe has a cause.
- (4) The cause of the universe is not in the universe.
- (5) But the only thing that could be outside of the universe is another universe.
- (6) Therefore: the cause of the universe is a previous universe.

This leads to an argument for an endless regression of universes:

- (1) Our universe is a whole with many interacting parts.
- (2) Every such whole is complex.
- (3) Therefore: Our universe is very complex.
- (4) Every complex thing is created by something else.
- (5) Therefore: Our universe was created something else.
- (6) Any cause is at least as great as its effect.
- (7) The creator of our universe is some super-universe.
- (8) Therefore: the super-universe exists.
- (9) Since the super-universe is complex, it has a creator.
- (10) The creator of the super-universe is some super-duper-universe.
- (11) Therefore: the super-duper-universe exists.
- (12) But the reasoning in 9 to 11 can be repeated endlessly.
- (13) So every universe is caused by some previous greater universe.
- (14) So there is no first cause.

5. Cranes versus Skyhooks

A *skyhook* is a cause which is at least as great than its effect.

A *crane* is a cause which is less great than its effect.

6. The Evolution of Universes

- (1) Our universe is a whole with many interacting parts.
- (2) Every such whole is complex.
- (3) Therefore: Our universe is very complex.
- (4) Every complex thing is created by something else.
- (5) Therefore: Our universe was created something else.
- (6) *Any cause is less complex than its effect.*
- (7) Our universe was caused by some less complex universe.
- (8) Repetition of this reasoning yields a regression of less complex universes.
- (9) Complexity cannot decrease infinitely.
- (10) Therefore: The regression of universes bottoms out in some first universe.
- (11) Any regression of some decreasing quality bottoms out in some initial thing that has that quality to the minimal degree.
- (12) So first universe has minimal complexity; it is physically simple.
- (13) Therefore: there exists some initial simple universe.
- (14) The initial simple universe is the first cause.

8. The First Cause is not the Theistic God