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Introduction to Philosophy

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Reading Question Week 7

Aquinas, "The Five Proofs of God" – pp. 348-351 (the first three arguments are all versions of the "Cosmological Argument" in favor of God's existence)

1. Based on Aquinas's explanation of the cosmological argument for God's existence, he believes that God is the ultimate mover of us human beings. Without him, we cannot function on our own. God as our creator, has the ultimate control over our lives, just as our motions may reflect God the supreme being. He also believes that no one can be both a mover or being moved simultaneously.
2. An infinite regress is a series of justifications or reasonings that never ends. Based on Aquinas's explanation of God's existence, he is an endless being that cannot be destroyed, which makes him the ultimate source of motion.
3. The third approach is based on possibility and necessity, where certain things may be and may not be. It is not feasible for everything to be of this kind since, even if nothing existed, there would still be nothing. As a result, something essential must exist in the world that not only necessities itself but also causes other things to be similarly essential. It is known as God. God exists, which causes us as human beings to exist and be a being on this earth.

Anselm, "The Existence of God," pp. 345-347 (this is the "Ontological Argument" for God's existence)

1. Anselm defines God as the supreme being on a higher existence level than us as human beings. Our creator God is "that than which nothing greater can be thought." God is in the existence of himself, which created our existence; without him, we are nothing. God exists in reality, not only understanding, making him an utterly supreme being.
2. Anselm argues that God is the only thing that can exist and that everything else can be considered nonexistent. This is due to the absurdity of a created being rising above its creator and judging its creator if some thought could come up with anything better than God. As a result, the fool has claimed that there is no God, even though it is clear to the logical mind that God exists to the fullest extent possible.

Hume, "The Argument from Design," pp. 365-370 (this is Hume's criticism of the "Teleological Argument" for God's existence...)

1. According to the teleological argument, Hume talks about the universe as a mechanism that accurately adjusts to each individual, suggesting the existence of a Deity and his likeness to the human intellect and intelligence. The evidence becomes progressively less reliable and subject to error and uncertainty.
2. I believe that Hume says that order, arrangement, or the final cause's adjustment does not prove design, but only if it has been proven true. Transferring experiments to analogous situations requires caution.
3. Some problems that Hume presented were the fact that two species of objects have always been observed to be conjoined together and the existence of one wherever he sees the existence of the other. Hume calls this an argument from experience. He also debated how probing by experiencing the universe's origin from the mind is not more contrary to ordinary speech than to prove the earth's motion from the same principle.