

Existence of God

AN ARGUMENTATIVE ESSAY

Contents

Introduction	1
Thesis Statement	1
The Nature of God.....	1
Critical Analysis of God's Existence.....	2
The Cosmological Argument.....	2
The Argument of Systematic Design from Analogy	3
Perspective from Probability.....	3
The Ontological Argument	4
The Problem of Existence of Evil	4
Conclusion	5

Introduction

Religion is the most debated topic in philosophical circles throughout the history of humanity. Many philosophers attempt to solve the ambiguity about the nature and characteristics of god. The word “god” has a different meaning for different people. Therefore, there is unlimited speculation on this topic. However, the philosophical approaches are always neutral, based on facts and critical observation and never gave preference to any specific religious-based model of god. They generally put a focus on problems regarding god and universal system.

Thesis Statement

The thesis statement of this argument is “what are the pieces of evidence of the existence of god”. The paper tends to prove the existence of god with the help of personal discursive analysis and critical examination of different philosophical perspectives.

The Nature of God

There is a similar general attribute of god described by almost all conventional religions including three main religions Judaism, Christianity and Islam that he is merciful, kind and most powerful (Fieser, paragraph 3). These religions present the same core set for god. However, there is no strong attribute of god described by atheists. Some atheist philosophers maintain that god is carrying a single attribute and others believe that there are dozens. Perhaps the basic attribute that most philosophers agreed on is god is personal, conscious and rational. Still, there are some

philosophers who criticized the attribute of personness. Greek philosopher Xenophanes (c. 570–c.478 BCE) associates this ideology with anthropomorphism that describes the characteristics of god more human-like and loses its superiority over mankind. For instance, if one insists that god has white hairs and beards like the character of Michelangelo in the famous Sistine Chapel painting, it would be conceptual misguides of his desire to emotionally soothe his desire to resemble a powerful but gentle human king.

Critical Analysis of God's Existence

There is a difference between clarifying the notion of god and explaining its existence.

Traditional evidence of the existence of god has several strategies. There are four main pieces of evidence presented by believers:

1. The cosmological argument
2. The systematic structure argument of analogy
3. The design argument from probability
4. The ontological perspective

The Cosmological Argument

This argument is associated with the question “where we come from?” and “How this world came into being?” It is the most common argument presented by the believers of God. They explain that this world is the chain of processes that comes into existence for some time and then go out of existence. For example, even after the death of an oak tree, the acorn from the tree regenerates another tree and the cycle goes on and creates a long chain of effect and causes.

German philosopher Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz (1646–1716) rose the point that if we track back the process at its origin then “who started this process in a systematic way?” There must be a well-organized yet infinite force free from the limitations of time and space to supervise this single sophisticated procedure. There are countless processes going on in this cosmic universe with great perfection which must be conducted by a highly intelligent force.

The Argument of Systematic Design from Analogy

Another argument that supports god’s existence is the complexly structured analogies of the universe. The highly functional merge of masterly precise natural entities in the beautiful design of nature compels one to question “who is the divine designer of this great analogy?” A simple watch needs craftsmanship to work correctly, how can this enormously great analogical system run without any supervision (Fieser, para8). Several biological evidence also supports this argument when philosophers questioned how the hands of human beings develop through evolution? The only problem related to the analogy argument is that though it proves the intelligently designed structure but doesn't describe other characteristics of the manufacturer.

Perspective from Probability

This is the theistic hypothetical argument for naturalistic ones who think that design analogy is not that effective elaboration of a supreme entity. The probability argument states that physical conditions that are essential to survive on the earth are extremely delicate and have a high probability of occurrence. Defender of this perspective argued that the physical condition of this world is tuned to support and nourish human beings and if two hypotheses will consider the acceptance level will be high for the most probable outcome. There are two opinions presented

against this approach by critics. First, Astrophysicists identify the high probability of multiverse and existence of life within some planet and these are not suitable for human beings as well. Second, there is not a single rule to accept highly probable outcomes according to them; the world is backed by tangible evidence, not on speculation.

The Ontological Argument

A monk named Anselm (1033–1109) presented an ontological argument (Fieser, para 11). It is considered as the most remarkable argument throughout philosophical history to assess god's existence. All previously stated evidence was based on physical observation and analysis of natural processes. It's like seeing a divine footprint and tracking it back to the supreme force. This argument states that God is the greatest possible thing and one must have the quality of existence rather than the quality of imagination to become the greatest being. According to Anselm, the god is the one, than which nothing can be greater.

The Problem of Existence of Evil

The most common objection to god's existence is the presence of evil, either in the form of natural disasters, deaths, diseases, poverty, injustice, etc. All who deny god ask, "Why evil and bad happens if God is present?" In some phases of our lives, we all raised these questions after mishaps and tragedies. Believers of god suggest that the answer to this question is somehow complicated but understandable. According to them, the supreme intelligent being has a precise master plan for everything happening in this world. Even, the event which may look evil and tragic ending has its specific purpose. Aristotle's final causality might be a good explanation for

this answer. It states that every process and function must have an ultimate cause. After completion of the specific task, the process ends. It can be stopped either in usually systematic ways or in the form of unexpected events which may be disturbing for human sensations but exactly according to the masterly precise universal plan.

Conclusion

Through the detailed analysis of cosmological, analogical, ontological and probability perspectives with a discursive and neutral philosophical approach, evidence has been found for the existence of rational and intelligent force. Still, there is ambiguity about the functional nature and characteristics of this great force because of the huge number of varying religious and aesthetic elaborations of this powerful being.

Reference

Fieser, James. Utm.edu, 2019. Online. Internet. 4 Mar. 2020. Available:
<http://www.utm.edu/staff/jfieser/class/120/2-god.htm>.