

# The Cosmological Argument for the Existence of God

By Joshua Alexander

## Introduction

Everyone grapples with questions such as, “What is the nature of reality?”, “What is good and what is evil?”, “What happens after death?” and perhaps the most important question: “Is there a God?” Can we answer this question? I think we can: the Cosmological Argument offers a compelling argument for the existence of a personal God. Recent discoveries from Big Bang Cosmology reinforce the Cosmological Argument by providing it with empirical support. Before we present the argument, let’s first examine the Cosmological Argument’s historical formulations.

## History

The Cosmological Argument consists of three main formulations: the Thomist, the Leibnizian, and the *Kalam*.<sup>1</sup> Though each differs from the others in methodology, they are all motivated by the question, “Why is there something rather than nothing?” The Leibnizian argument deals with this question most directly, seeking “Sufficient Reason” for the universe’s existence. It should be emphasized that the Leibnizian argument looks for an *explanation* for the cosmos rather than a *cause* for the cosmos. This is because the Leibnizian argument deals with the “contingency” of the universe. Something is said to be contingent if it is not logically necessary, being dependent on or determined by something else. The Leibnizian argument reasons that everything in the universe is contingent, so the whole universe is contingent. Since the whole universe is contingent, its explanation—the tie-breaker or determining factor—must be outside the universe. This explanation is something which is *not* contingent, a necessary being, which is to say, God.

The Thomist argument, named after the renowned 13<sup>th</sup> century theologian Thomas Aquinas, actually has roots tracing back to Aristotle and his argument from motion to the unmoved Mover.<sup>2</sup> The Thomist argument is concerned with the question of causality, and rests on the impossibility of what is known as an “infinite

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<sup>1</sup> William Lane Craig, *The Cosmological Argument from Plato to Leibniz* (New York: Harper and Row, 1980), 282-283.

<sup>2</sup> Craig, *The Cosmological Argument from Plato to Leibniz*, 161.

