

A simple version of the cosmological argument

PHIL 13195

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Recall that in class we said that some versions of the cosmological argument do, and some do not, rely crucially on a premise which rules out some sort of infinite chain. Below is an example of one which does not rely on such a premise:

1. It is a contingent fact that contingent beings exist.
 2. Any contingent fact has an explanation. (Principle of Sufficient Reason)
 3. There is an explanation for the fact that contingent beings exist.
(1,2)
 4. Any explanation of the fact that contingent beings exist must be given in terms of some being or beings.
 5. No explanation of the fact that contingent beings exist can be given in terms of contingent beings.
 6. Any explanation of the fact that contingent beings exist must be given in terms of a being (or beings) which necessarily exists. (4,5)
 7. There is an explanation for the fact that contingent beings exist in terms of a necessarily existing being (or beings). (3,6)
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- C. There is a necessarily existing being (or beings). (7)