

## *Descartes' view of omnipotence and an objection from Aquinas*

Descartes says that God was free to make the radii of circles unequal. Here is one line of reasoning which leads to this kind of position:

1. Everything depends on God.
2. The truth of the claim that the radii of circles are equal depends on God. (1)
3. If X's truth depends on Y, then Y was free to make X false.

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C. God was free to make the radii of circles unequal. (2,3)

Premise 1 states a very traditional claim about God. And premise 3 looks reasonably plausible. So, while Descartes' view is often presented as a radical one, it is not without motivation.

Here is an objection from Aquinas against this kind of view:

1. If X is free to do Y, then X can do Y.
2. If X can do Y, then it is possible that Y.
3. If X is free to do Y, then it is possible that Y. (2,3)
4. If God was free to make the the radii of circles unequal, then it is possible that the radii of circles be unequal.
5. It is impossible that the radii of circles be unequal.

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C. God was not free to make the the radii of circles unequal. (4,5)

What premise of the first argument would Aquinas reject?

What premise of Aquinas' argument would Descartes reject?