

Two Moral Arguments for Theism

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Definitions

God: a necessarily existent personal being who is omnipotent (all-powerful) omniscient (all-knowing) and omnibenevolent (all-good).

Moral Universe: that dimension of reality that involves the sphere of moral value (good and evil) and moral obligation (right and wrong).

Objective Facts: facts which have truth conditions independent of the beliefs finite agents have about them.

Moral Realism: the view that the moral universe consists of objective facts about moral value and obligation and that we can obtain rational beliefs and knowledge about those facts through intuition and reason.

Naturalism: (1) nature – that which is studied in the natural sciences – is all that exists.
(2) all that exists is matter in motion and that which supervenes on (or arises out of) matter in motion.

Supervenience: a relation in which the higher-level properties of a system are determined by its lower level properties.

An Argument from Objective Moral Value (Hypothetical syllogism; Modus Ponens)

- (1) If moral realism is true then objective moral values exist independently of nature.
- (2) If objective moral values exist independently of nature then naturalism is false.
- (3) Therefore, if moral realism is true then naturalism is false.
- (4) Moral realism is true.
- (5) Therefore, naturalism is false.

An Argument from Moral Knowledge (Modus Tollens)

- (1) If atheism is true then moral realism is false.
- (2) Moral realism is true.
- (3) Therefore, atheism is false.