

Summary of Ontological Argument. Originally presented by St. Anselm (1033-1109)

This argument can be stated two ways: First,

(1) God is by definition an absolutely perfect being.

(2) An absolutely perfect being cannot lack anything.

(3) But a being that exists has something that a being that does not exist lacks--existence.

(4) Therefore, an absolutely perfect being must exist.

Second,

(1) God is by definition a necessary being.

(2) But a necessary being cannot *not* exist (otherwise, it would not be a necessary being).

(3) Therefore, a necessary being necessarily exists.