
DIVERSE COSMOLOGIES

Creation

ANCIENT

PLATO

- * Eternal existants
 - * Forms
 - * Matter
 - * Demiurge
- * True reality and partial reality
- * The problem and the solution
- * The status of the present world

ARISTOTLE

- * Eternal world
- * Unmoved mover
- * Final causality
- * The problem and the solution
- * The status of the present world

STOICS

- * The soul and the world
- * Eternal return
- * The problem and the solution
- * The status of the present world

NEOPLATONISTS

- * The soul and the world
- * Eternal return
- * The problem and the solution
- * The status of the present world

PANTHEIST I

- * The soul and the world
- * Eternal return
- * The problem and the solution
- * The status of the present world

MONIST

- * The soul and the world
- * Eternal return
- * The problem and the solution
- * The status of the present world

MODERN

PANTHEIST II

- * The soul and the world
- * Eternal return
- * The problem and the solution
- * The status of the present world

DEIST

- * The soul and the world
- * Eternal return
- * The problem and the solution
- * The status of the present world

EVOLUTIONARY

- * Matter and spirit
- * Cause and transcendence
- * The problem and the solution
- * The status of the present world

QUANTUM

- * Various theories
- * Thought and matter
- * The problem and the solution
- * The status of the present world

CAUSALITY AND CREATIO EX NIHILO

Creation

GOD

- God as God
- “That than which nothing greater can be conceived” - Anselm
- Transcendence of God
- Eternal
 - Necessary existence
 - Only existence
- Unchanging
 - No lack
 - No dependencies
 - Nothing to be improved
- Loving
 - Intentionally creating
 - All-powerfully creating

CAUSALITY

- Causes within the world
- These are all secondary causes, presuming that something rather than nothing exists

CREATION

CONTINGENCY

- Only God is eternal
- There can be nothing else eternal
- Nor can God need something else

TRINITY

- God’s being is fulfilled in his outpouring and sharing of self (Bonaventure)
- The Trinity is complete being
- The procession of the persons is the ground for the possibility of creation (Aquinas)

WHERE DOES GOD CREATE?

- Outside himself
 - Where is “outside” to God
- God making room for creation (Moltmann)
- God does not create in a void as if the void were eternal with him

FROM WHAT DOES GOD CREATE?

- Nothing
 - This is not a sort of substance
 - This is not a property of a subject
 - It is merely the fact of not existing (see Anselm’s *Monologion*)
- Nothing observed in creation is secondary to the nothing from which creation came forth
 - The nothing of theology is not the same as the absence of things in physics
 - Even were a nothing possible, it would not be the non-being that is at the heart of the doctrine (see Hayes, 57-58)

- His will
 - “The teaching that the creation is the outcome of God’s willing is one of the most momentous developments in all the history of thought, affecting as it does the way in which the relation of God and the world is understood and, in the longer term, the development of science.” (Gunton, 65)

HOW IS THE WORLD LIKE GOD?

- Ontologically it is not
- It reflects God’s creative action

WHEN DID GOD CREATE?

- “What was God doing before he created the world?” (see Augustine’s Confessions)
- Time and creation

WHEN DID GOD FINISH CREATING?

- Creation in the past and creation throughout history
- Continuous creation: sustaining
- Continuous creation: redeeming
- Continuous creation: providence
 - Aquinas: “The ordering of creatures to an end that pre-exists in the mind of God.” (ST I q. 22, a. 1, quoted in Hayes, 51)
 - Vatican I: “All things that have been created God protects and governs by means of divine providence that ‘reaches from end to end mightily, and governs all things well’ (Wis 8:1). For all things are bare and open to God’s eyes (Heb 4:13) even those things which are yet to be by the free action of creatures.” (quoted in Hayes, 51)
- Continuous creation: perfecting

WHAT KIND OF CREATION RESULTS?

- Order in creation
 - Chain of being?
 - Hierarchy
- Are some parts of creation more like God than others?

HOW IS GOD RELATED TO CREATION?

- Paradigmata / logoi
- Plan of God
- Son and Spirit

- The dignity of creation
- The independence of creation from God

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