

God and Ultimate Origins: A Novel Cosmological Argument

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Reviewed by Domenic Marbaniang, 2017

God and Ultimate Origins lucidly compacts a gigantic breadth and depth of philosophical and scientific research on the concept and fact of causality and its importance for the cosmological argument. Students of philosophy will note that, in modern Western Philosophy, it was primarily Hume who first set torch to the common sense notion of causal relations. Kant, who claimed that Hume's writings woke him from his dogmatic slumbers, attempted a salvage of causality by devising an epistemic system that suggested and provided proofs for causality to just be *a priori*, which also means that it is how the human mind connects events subjectively in the form of a necessary connection. As such, this notion of subjective causal interpretation could be devastating to the cosmological argument. However, the fact that Kant needed causality to account for understanding causal relations seems to beg the question. In other words, stating that the *a priori* category of causality causes us to interpret data as causally related is an attempt to look for objective causes of our concepts while at the same time treating causality as just a subjective mental mold for processing raw data.

While to some it may seem that Kant dealt a death blow to the cosmological argument, the objective necessity of and inescapability from causality makes the cosmological argument as realistic as any research in empirical science. Andrew Loke capitalizes on that. He first makes a sweeping survey of the most important issues related to the cosmological argument, particularly the Kalam Cosmological Argument, and observes how each objection has been or could be rebutted. Then, noticing that the KCA as well as the Thomistic argument do continue to invite more objections from theories of time and issues of actual infinities, he tries to combine the both by offering a novel argument which he illustrates with a simple analogy of a series of train cars drawn by an engine. Of course, he observes that there could be disanalogies between the illustration and the idea of causal series. However, he does his best to answer each and tries to explain why his argument has a greater advantage over the others. He also musters a number of scientific research findings to reinforce the a posteriori part of it and displays patient and arduous labor in freezing a wide ocean of research into this 200 page book. The book is a must read for any student of the philosophy of religion or Apologetics who wishes to be updated with the breadth of scholarship in arguments in favor of theism. We hope Springer can make the book available at a lower cost so that it can be buyable in countries where a fair price of a book should not be more than \$12.