Atheism

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Science explores the observable universe, but it can't reach beyond the Big Bang or our universe. Scientists can make hypotheses about multi-universes based on what they see here, but they have no way to prove or disprove them. Thus, science is a powerful tool for understanding our universe, but it does not have the capacity to confirm or deny the existence of God. Expecting science to prove one way or the other would tantamount to misunderstanding science.

Agnostics acknowledge this lack of scientific evidence and stay neutral on the question of God. Atheists, however, reject the existence of God, seeing no scientific reason to believe. Interestingly, logical reasoning can prove the existence of God, but only if one is open-minded.

It's wise to distance oneself from any religion that promotes illogical dogmas, oppressive behavior, and allows atrocious acts against non-believers or followers of other faiths. However, the question of God's existence is separate from the lies told in His name by some believers.

To find the truth, we must approach the subject rationally, examining all evidence without bias. Atheists, who pride themselves on rationality, should also rely on reason and critical thinking, avoiding speculative assumptions about a higher being.

In this discussion, we present logical arguments to prove the existence of a "Higher Being". This term refers not to a deity bound by religious doctrine, but to an ultimate reality that exists independently and essentially, without relying on anything else. By making this distinction, we aim to foster a fair and thoughtful dialogue, free of misconceptions or prejudices.

We invite everyone to engage meaningfully with an open mind. Please, set aside societal influences and personal desires, and consider the arguments based on their merit.

Note: The proof and the arguments presented here are not mine and I take no credit for it. The full version of the proof can be found elsewhere on the Internet and in books. I have tried to present a shorter and simplified version for general consumption.

Existence and Reality

Before we delve into the matter, it's worth contemplating the notion of existence. What does it mean to exist? While most people accept their existence and the world around them as self-evident, this assumption is worth examining. Consider the possibility that everything you know is part of a dream — your dream. How would you distinguish this dream from reality?

Alternatively, imagine being connected to a machine that generates a simulated reality for your mind. Your sensory experiences are manipulated, and you cannot tell that this reality is artificial. Can such a machine make you doubt your own existence? Of course not!

The very act of doubting your existence is proof that you exist, because you cannot create a doubt in someone or something that does not exist. In addition, doubt requires a conscious, self-aware entity to experience it. Therefore, while a dream or a machine might deceive your senses, it cannot erase your fundamental self-awareness.

Though experiments like these can affirm our own existence, they leave us uncertain about the nature of the reality beyond ourselves. Whether our world is real or not, the arguments we are going to present remain valid. For simplicity, we will assume that the world we observe is "real."

Within this context, we define two types of realities: conditioned and unconditioned.

Conditioned Reality

A reality that depends on external factors for its existence at any given moment. In other words, its existence is conditional upon certain conditions being met at the moment of its existence.

For instance, you as a human being rely on organs, air, and countless other conditions to exist. All these conditions need to be present for your existence. Take, for example, a cat, which depends on its cells, molecules, atoms, etc. and their specific organization or structure to maintain its existence. These dependencies extend to everything in the observable universe, including particles, waves, and even the laws of physics.

Unconditioned Reality

A reality that exists independently, requiring no external conditions to sustain it. This is often described as an "uncaused cause" or a foundational existence.

The Approach

Before proceeding to the actual arguments, it is worth recalling that proof by contradiction is a common and powerful method used in both mathematics and logic to demonstrate the validity of a statement. In the absence of observable evidence, proof by contradiction is a useful method of proving or disproving logical assertions. We intend to use this method to prove the existence of an Unconditioned Reality - the Higher Being.

Proof by contradiction works by assuming the opposite of what one wishes to prove. For example, to prove that a Higher Being exists, one assumes that a Higher Being does not exist. Then, logical arguments are presented showing that the assumption leads to a contradiction. If such a contradiction arises, it can

be concluded that the assumption was wrong and not viable, thus proving the validity of the original assertion. This method works only when there are two possiblities that are disjoint - meaning one of them must be true but never both.

For an "Unconditioned Reality", there are two mutually exclusive possibilities: either it exists or not. We will use the described method to prove its exists.

The Proof

We want to prove that an Unconditioned Reality exists, and at this time, we do not know if it exists or not. But one thing is certain: you exist, and you rely on many realities for your existence. Thus, it is obvious that some realities exist.

Now, for the sake of argument, let's assume that an Unconditioned Reality does not exist.

This assumption implies that the world consists of only conditioned realities. The set of these realities can either be finite or infinite. Let's consider both cases one by one.

A Finite Set of Conditioned Realities (case 1)

For simplicity, consider the case of your existence. You are a conditioned reality, dependent on cells and their specific organization. The cells are conditioned realities and depend on molecules and their structures. The molecules, in turn, are also conditioned realities as they rely on subsequent realities. Let's assume the last in the chain of these dependencies is called 'x'.

Being a conditioned reality, 'x' cannot exist because the reality it depends on does not exist—recall 'x' is the last one in the chain. If 'x' does not exist, the entire chain of dependencies falls apart like a domino effect. If none of the dependent realities exist, you cannot exist either. But that is a contradiction because you exist.

Thus, the assumption of the non-existence of Unconditioned Reality leads to a contradiction; therefore, the assumption was not valid.

The same argument can also be represented by the following figure, where conditioned reality-1 depends on conditioned reality-2, which in turn depends on conditioned reality-3, and so on until the last conditioned reality-x:

```
reality_1← reality_2← ... reality_x←
```

Since the reality that reality-x depends on does not exist, none of the realities in the chain exist. The same argument can be repeated for any number of conditioned realities. In the absence of an "Unconditioned Reality," none can exist.

Finite Set with Circular Dependency (case 2)

One could argue that the contradiction problem can be avoided if the last conditioned reality-x depends on the first conditioned reality-1. This dependency chain is shown in the following figure, where reality-1 is shown twice only for the purpose of clarity - reality-x depending on reality-1:

```
reality_1← reality_2← ... reality_x← reality_1←
```

This arrangement creates a problem of self-dependence, where reality_1 depends on itself through the chain of intermediaries. This setup implies that conditioned reality_1 must sustain, through intermediaries, its own existence, which is a logical impossibility.

A reality cannot cause its own existence because it would need to exist prior to itself to fulfill the dependency. Therefore, this arrangement also leads to a contradiction.

Both of these cases have demonstrated that a set of finite conditioned realities cannot exist, unless the assumption is invalid.

An Infinite Set of Conditioned Realities

Next, consider the case of an infinite set of conditioned realities, which can be shown in the following dependency chain figure:

```
reality_1← reality_2← ... reality_x← ...
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Let's first consider an alternative arrangement, for simplicity, where an infinite number of conditioned realities exist between the first conditioned reality-1 and the last conditioned reality-x, as shown below within the parenthesis:

```
reality_1← (... reality_y← ...) reality_x←
```

This arrangement is no different from the case of finite conditioned realities with reality-x being the last. As long as the reality that reality-x depends on does not exist, none of the other realities exist, even if they are infinite.

Even if you rearrange these conditioned realities where there is no last conditioned reality and the chain is infinite, the fact remains that none of those can exist on their own because all are conditioned realities. But, we know that realities exist; hence, this case also leas to a contradiction.

> It is to be noted that based on how a conditioned reality was defined in terms of "simultaneous existence of dependencies," the infinite regress challenge is not valid for this case.
>
> **Simultaneous Existence of Dependencies**
> For a conditioned reality to exist, all the conditions it depends on must exist simultaneously. For example, a cat cannot exist unless its cells, molecules, and atoms exist at the same time. This requirement holds for every link in the chain.
>
> **Infinite Regress**
> Infinite regress refers to a scenario where a chain of dependencies extends indefinitely without ever reaching a foundational cause. Imagine an infinite chain of causes and effects, where each effect depends on a prior cause. In such a scenario, the process of cause-and-effect would require infinite time to reach any particular point, making the existence of the present moment impossible.
>
> In the current scenario, all dependent realities must exist now simultaneously for a conditioned reality to exist, even if they are infinite. This is impossible because none of them can exist on their own and rely on some other reality for their existence.

From the above cases, it becomes evident that conditioned realities cannot exist on their own, whether arranged in a finite or infinite set.

The contradictions in both scenarios demonstrate that our assumption - "no unconditioned reality exists" - is false. Therefore, the existence of an unconditioned reality is necessary to sustain all conditioned realities.

An unconditioned reality, by definition, exists independently and does not rely on any external factors. It serves as the ultimate foundation, providing the necessary support for all dependent realities.

Conclusion

We began with the assumption that no unconditioned reality exists and explored all possible configurations of conditioned realities. Each scenario led to contradictions, proving the assumption untenable. Thus, we conclude that an unconditioned reality must exist.

A Word of Caution

This unconditioned reality is not bound by the limitations of conditioned realities and serves as the foundational cause of all existence. While this proof establishes its existence, it does not imply the characteristics or nature of this reality beyond its independence and necessity. As such, any claims about its attributes should be critically evaluated based on further evidence and rational inquiry.

The Uncaused, Indivisible, and One

Here, we will present the proof for the oneness of unconditioned reality.

The concept of an unconditioned reality must be "indivisible". If it were comprised of parts or subcomponents, it would not be an unconditioned reality (consider the relationship between a cat and its components). As such, the idea of a higher being cannot be divided into two or more entities in one. By definition, this higher being must also be uncaused (not depending on any condition or cause.)

If there were "multiple" unconditioned realities, they would either be identical or differ in some aspect. If they differed, there would be some aspect of differences between them. However, this would suggest that the realities have parts (with differing and similar aspects), making them dependent on those components, which leads to absurdity (as they are unconditioned realities.) Therefore, the existence of multiple unconditioned realities is an impossibility.

The possibility of multiple "identical" realities is also eliminated. According to the principle of the Identity of Indiscernible by Leibniz, if there are multiple realities, they must be identical.

It is incorrect to consider identical realities as occupying separate areas in space, as space is part of the conditioned realities, which cannot exist independently. The idea of multiple identical unconditioned realities is therefore invalid.

Therefore, there is only One, Indivisible, Uncaused reality, commonly referred to as God or a Higher Being.