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God

A brief philosophical introduction

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K.H.A. Esmail

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SERIES IN PHILOSOPHY



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Introduction

Chapter 1. The Nature of God

Chapter 2. Evil being overridden & God bringing about a particular kind of universe

Chapter 3. The Existence of God - Are there sufficient grounds for the claim that God does not exist?

Chapter 4. The Existence of God - Are there sufficient grounds for the claim that God exists?

Main Conclusions

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Appendix 4. Are there sufficient grounds for the claim that, very probably, God does not exist?

Appendix 5. Theodicy and some theodicies

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Appendix 7. Some further remarks on a living thing which possesses the power to do this or that freely

Appendix 8. Can it be that God knows a fact such as the following to do with some other living thing which experiences (genuinely) a threat to its life and which believes that this is so: this experience is like _____?

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About the author

Dr. K.H.A. Esmail is a Course Director and Tutor (Philosophy & Religious Studies), Institute of Continuing Education, University of Cambridge. The author was educated at London, Oxford, Cambridge, and Harvard.

He was awarded a British Academy Studentship and the Gregg Bury Prize (Philosophy) at Cambridge.

He was a Research Fellow at Oxford and Burney Student at Cambridge and a Visiting Fellow at Harvard.

He lectures at both Cambridge and Oxford.

Summary

This is a clear and concise and original investigation of God's nature and existence.

First of all, it considers (among other things) two of God's traditional properties: being all-knowing and being all-powerful. It argues he cannot possess these properties. But, it argues this is in accord with him being worthy of worship.

Secondly, it introduces the notion of evil being "overridden". It argues he has to bring about other free living things and it is plausible they have to be liable to experience evil due to their conditions. But, it argues the evil in this world is "overridden".

Thirdly, it considers the principal arguments for the claim he does not exist. (They refer to the evil in the world.) It argues they do not establish sufficient grounds for this claim.

Finally, it considers some well-known arguments for the claim he exists. It argues they face difficulties. It sets out other arguments: eg. some arguments to increase any degree of belief one has that God can exist.

It includes a number of Appendices: God's sovereignty; Are there sufficient grounds for the claim that, very probably, God does not exist?; Theodicy and some theodicies; Some further remarks on God and time; Some further remarks on a living thing which possesses the power to do this or that freely; Some remarks on God being simple; Some remarks on God being present in a spatial realm and God being present in a non-spatial realm;

It covers as a whole the principal parts of the Philosophy of Religion.

It unifies these parts to a significant degree. It proceeds regularly by way of formal and clear arguments.

It will be of interest to advanced students and specialists in Philosophy, Religious Studies, and Theology.

Given its explanation of key terms, its jargon-free language, its clarity and brevity.... , it will be of interest to others, too.

August 2025 | Hardback 236x160mm | 544 Pages | ISBN: 979-8-8819-0298-8

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