

## Aquinas On God

[#Aquinas on God](#) [#Thomas Aquinas arguments for God](#) [#Proofs of God's existence Aquinas](#) [#Thomistic theology](#) [#Summa Theologica God](#)

Explore the profound philosophical and theological insights of Thomas Aquinas on the nature and existence of God. This essential topic delves into his renowned "Five Ways" or proofs of God's existence, meticulously articulated within his seminal work, the Summa Theologica. Understanding Aquinas's contributions offers a foundational perspective on natural theology and Thomistic philosophy, impacting centuries of discourse on divine matters.

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### Aquinas on God

Aquinas on God presents an accessible exploration of Thomas Aquinas' conception of God. Focusing on the Summa theologiae - the work containing Aquinas' most systematic and complete exposition of the Christian doctrine of God - Rudi te Velde acquaints the reader with Aquinas' theological understanding of God and the metaphysical principles and propositions that underlie his project. Aquinas' conception of God is dealt with not as an isolated metaphysical doctrine, but from the perspective of his broad theological view which underlies the scheme of the Summa. Readers interested in Aquinas, historical theology, metaphysics and metaphysical discourse on God in the Christian tradition will find this new contribution to the studies of Aquinas invaluable.

### Thomas Aquinas on God and Evil

Brian Davies offers the first in-depth study of Saint Thomas Aquinas's thoughts on God and evil, revealing that Aquinas's thinking about God and evil can be traced through his metaphysical philosophy, his thoughts on God and creation, and his writings about Christian revelation and the doctrines of the Trinity and the Incarnation. Davies first gives an introduction to Aquinas's philosophical theology, as well as a nuanced analysis of the ways in which Aquinas's writings have been considered over time. For hundreds of years scholars have argued that Aquinas's views on God and evil were original and different from those of his contemporaries. Davies shows that Aquinas's views were by modern standards very original, but that in their historical context they were more traditional than many scholars since have realized. Davies also provides insight into what we can learn from Aquinas's philosophy. Thomas Aquinas on God and Evil is a clear and engaging guide for anyone who struggles with the relation of God and theology to the problem of evil.

### Saint Thomas Aquinas on the Existence of God

This book puts before the reader a succinct and philosophically valid interpretation of St. Thomas Aquinas' arguments for the existence of God by a modern, historically grounded interpreter of his thought. Father Joseph Owens is well known for the exacting care with which he prepares his articles and the solid scholarly apparatus with which he supports them. His knowledge of Greek, Latin, Aristotelian, as well as the Thomistic corpus is profound, and he is conversant with the various interpretative traditions within Aristotelianism and Thomism in ancient, medieval, and modern times in their appropriate languages. This volume will challenge the reader, yet it includes everything to help comprehend the position of St. Thomas Aquinas on this central issue.

### Aquinas

"Thomas Aquinas, the most influential of Christian philosopher-theologians, as also one of the great students of logic and language. Here his doctrine of God is subjected to an audacious analysis, advanced with the precision and order that characterises recent work in logical theory and the philosophy of language. The study is designed to lead the reader into an appreciation of the power of Aquinas' philosophical wit, as he directs it towards unravelling what we might say or not say about that which is literally indescribable: divinity." -- From inside front cover.

### Thomas Aquinas

This path-breaking approach to Thomas Aquinas interprets the Five Ways in the context of his theory of science. Aquinas is the leading medieval philosopher and his work is of continuing contemporary relevance. Addressing all the critical themes of authority and reason, Christopher Martin examines the role of science and definitions in medieval thought, and how to deal with the big question: is there a God? Rigorous and challenging, Martin's clear exposition compares and contrasts Aquinas' arguments with those of other philosophers, Anselm, Descartes and Kant.

### Free Creatures of an Eternal God

(Peeters 1996)

### The Five Ways

Henry, his parents, and his dog Mudge take a vacation out West, where they enjoy tumbleweeds, desert animals, souvenirs, and the wide open spaces.

### Revisiting Aquinas' Proofs for the Existence of God

Edited and introduced by Robert Arp, *Revisiting Aquinas' Proofs for the Existence of God* is a collection of new papers written by scholars focusing on the famous Five Proofs or Ways (*Quinque Viae*) for the existence of God put forward by St. Thomas Aquinas (1225-1274) near the beginning of his unfinished tome, *Summa Theologica*.

### Divine Science and the Science of God

In this book, Victor Preller examines the logical status of religious language in the light of recent developments in American analytic philosophy. The problem inherent in religious language is presented in terms of the referential status of the word God. The author argues that the significance of any referential term is dependent upon the ability of that term to play a significant role 'within' a unified conceptual system. The problem is shown to transcend the epistemological dogmas of Positivism and Conceptual Empiricism and to be inherent in any intelligible epistemology, including that of Thomas Aquinas, whose theological treatises serve as a model of religious language for the thesis of this book. According to Professor Preller, Divine Science (Aquinas' term for what we now call Natural Theology) results from a reflection upon the limitations encountered by the intellect in its attempt to render intelligible the objects of human experience. In the Science of God (Aquinas' term for that mode of knowing engendered by faith), the unknown meta-empirical referent of Divine Science becomes the object of the human intellect. While this study develops out of the discussions inaugurated by Flew and McIntyre in 'New Essays in Philosophical Theology', it rejects the excessively empirical approach of most other studies in that tradition. It applies post-positivistic analysis to specifically Catholic theological language, but it obviously applies to the theological language involved in any form of theism.

### Aquinas: *Summa Theologiae*, Questions on God

Thomas Aquinas (1224/6-1274) was one of the greatest of the medieval philosophers. His *Summa Theologiae* is his most important contribution to Christian theology, and one of the main sources for his philosophy. This volume offers most of the *Summa's* first 26 questions, including all of those on the existence and nature of God. Based on the 1960 Blackfriars translation, this version has been extensively revised by Brian Davies and also includes an introduction by Brian Leftow which places the questions in their philosophical and historical context. The result is an accessible and up-to-date edition of Aquinas' thoughts on the nature and existence of God, both of which have continuing relevance for the philosophy of religion and Christian theology.

### Aquinas' Proofs for God's Existence

The purpose of this study is to investigate the legitimacy of the principle, "The per accidens necessarily implies the per se," as it is found in the writings of St. Thomas Aquinas. Special emphasis will be placed upon the function of this principle in the proofs for God's existence. The relevance of the principle in this latter context can be seen at once when it is observed that it is the key to the solution of the well known "problem of infinite regress." The investigation of the principle in question will be divided into two Parts. A preliminary examination of the function of the principle will be made in Part I: Domains Other Than That of Creature-God. The domains to be considered in this Part are those of accident-substance, change, and knowledge. Employing what is learned of the function of the principle in these areas of application, Part II: The Domain of Creature-God will analyze the role of the principle in the proofs for God's existence. This latter Part will constitute the greater portion of the book, since the domain of creatures in their relation to God is the most significant application of the principle in the writings of St. Thomas. In the course of this investigation, relevant analyses by St. Thomas' commentators - both classical and contemporary - will be considered. Finally, in light of the insights offered by St.

### The Idea of God

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### Aquinas

This exploration of Thomas Aquinas's philosophical theology, decidedly "unorthodox" at the time of its original publication, had the good fortune to be employed extensively--notably at Yale and Cambridge--by my eminent colleagues George Lindbeck and Nicholas Lash. It essayed a "non-foundational" reading of the *Summa Theologiae*, unabashedly beholden to Wittgenstein, thereby preparing the way for a postmodern yet thoroughly traditional appreciation of the central role which Aquinas played in adapting Hellenic thought to form the hybrid discipline of "philosophical theology." Such a reading proved a welcome alternative to the neo-Thomist attempt to separate "philosophy" from "theology," in an effort to show the wider world that the Catholic faith was "based on reason." While this unfortunate divide has been fixed in the departmental structure of Catholic colleges and universities throughout the world, it was effectively undermined by the universally respected expositor of Aquinas, Josef Pieper, who noted that free creation is "the hidden element in Aquinas's philosophy." However propitious it may have appeared to Catholic apologists in the heyday of modernism to sever "philosophy" from "theology," it would have made no more sense to Aquinas than it could have to Anselm or Augustine before him. Ironically enough, a postmodern sensibility presaged by John Henry Newman in his *Grammar of Assent* finds the neo-Thomist construction of reason unadulterated by faith to be just that--an abstract construction--after Hans-Georg Gadamer succeeded in showing how any inquiry is fiduciary in its inception, and as Alasdair MacIntyre has reminded us that all inquiry is in fact "tradition-directed," whatever its ostensible attitude towards "tradition." So a "non-foundational" reading of Aquinas was

to prove amenable to current philosophers, as well as more faithful to the thought-world of Aquinas himself.

### Aquinas's Way to God

Kerr examines St Thomas Aquinas's much-neglected proof for the existence of God in 'De Ente et Essentia', Chapter 4. He offers a contemporary presentation and interpretation of this proof as well as a defence. Beginning with the distinction between the key concepts of 'essence' and 'esse' in Aquinas's thought, the book moves from an account of these metaphysical principles to their use by Aquinas in establishing that there is a single unique primary cause from which all that is comes to be. Along the way, important themes in metaphysics are examined from a Thomistic perspective.

### God's Existence. Can it be Proven?

The aim of the book is to show that the Five Ways of Thomas Aquinas, i.e. his five arguments to prove the existence of God, are logically correct arguments by the standards of modern Predicate Logic. In the first chapter this is done by commenting on the two preliminary articles preceding the Five Ways in which Thomas Aquinas points out that on the one hand the existence of God is not self-evident to us and on the other hand, that, similar as in some scientific explanations, the mere existence of a cause for an effect which is evidently known to us can be proved. In the second chapter every argument is translated into the symbolic form of Predicate Logic and its logical validity is shown. Additionally a detailed and critical discussion of the premises of each argument is given.

### Living with God

What is the relation between human life on earth and 'life' after death in the theology of Saint Thomas Aquinas (1224/5-1274)? In this study this question is dealt with from the perspective of the foundations, dynamism and perfection of the human relationship with God. It is shown how Aquinas' ('negative') theological analysis of 'life' as a name of God works out in qualifying his account of both human life on earth and 'life' after death as two interrelated modes of living with God. Written at an accessible level and having the width of a thematic study on the key-word 'life', this book can also be read as an introduction to the theology of Thomas Aquinas.

### God's Existence. Can It Be Proven?

First published in 2003. Routledge is an imprint of Taylor & Francis, an informa company.

### The Five Ways

Thomas Aquinas was one of the greatest Western philosophers and one of the greatest theologians of the Christian church. In this book we at last have a modern, comprehensive presentation of the total thought of Aquinas. Books on Aquinas invariably deal with either his philosophy or his theology. But Aquinas himself made no arbitrary division between his philosophical and his theological thought, and this book allows readers to see him as a whole. It introduces the full range of Aquinas' thinking; and it relates his thinking to writers both earlier and later than Aquinas himself.

### The Thought of Thomas Aquinas

Hughes discusses Aquinas' work regarding the apparently irreconcilable theses of natural and revealed theology, and he argues that Aquinas fails in his attempt to reconcile absolute simplicity with the doctrines of the Trinity and the Incarnation. Hughes also offers a provocative account of divine simplicity and explores its implications for the Thomistic doctrines of the Trinity and Incarnation.

### On a Complex Theory of a Simple God

This book provides a fundamental introduction to Aquinas's theology of the One Creator God. Aimed at making that thought accessible to contemporary audiences, it gives a basic explanation of his theology while showing its compatibility with contemporary science and its relevance to current theological issues. Opening with a brief account of Aquinas's life, it then describes the purpose and nature of the Summa Theologica and gives a short review of current varieties of Thomism. Without neglecting other works, it then focuses primarily on the discussion of the One God in the first part of the Summa Theologica. God's transcendence and immanence is a recurrent theme in that discussion. Evidence

of God's immanent causality in the natural world grounds Aquinas's five arguments for the existence of God (the Five Ways) which then open onto God's transcendence. The subsequent discussion of the divine attributes builds on the modes of God's causality established in the Five Ways. It also shows the need for a language of analogy to preserve God's transcendence and prevent us from reducing God to the level of creatures, even as qualities such as "goodness" and "love," which we first know from creatures, are applied to God. The discussion of God's providence and governance establishes that the transcendent Creator God is most intimately present in creation. God acts in all creatures in a way that does not diminish their proper causality, but is rather its source. As there is no contradiction between God's transcendence and immanence, so there is no competition between the primary causality of God and the secondary causality of creatures. Empirical science, which is limited by its method to the secondary causality of creatures, is shown to be compatible with the broader discipline of theology which also embraces the primary causality of the Creator.

### The One Creator God in Thomas Aquinas and Contemporary Theology

This in-depth study of Thomas Aquinas' *Quaestio de Attributis* binds together the findings of previous research on the unique history of this text by reconstructing the historical circumstances surrounding its composition, shows that the *Quaestio* contains Aquinas' final answer to the dispute on the divine attributes, and thoroughly examines his interpretation of Maimonides' position on the issue of the knowledge of God by analysing this and other texts related to it chronologically and doctrinally.

### Aquinas and Maimonides on the Possibility of the Knowledge of God

The selections included in this anthology, drawn from a variety of Aquinas' works, focus on the roles of reason and faith in philosophy and theology. Expanding on these themes are Aquinas' discussions of the nature and domain of theology; the knowledge of God and of God's attributes attainable through natural reason; the life of God, including God's will, justice, mercy, and providence; and the principal Christian mysteries treated in theology properly speaking--the Trinity and the Incarnation.

### On Faith and Reason

All perfections of things pre-exist in the divine essence, yet it is entirely simple, without components. These seemingly opposed attributes of God are reconciled in Questions 3–6 of the First Part of the *Summa theologiae*, here newly translated and explained in line-by-line detail. Among topics receiving special attention are Aquinas's doctrine of participation, his conception of God as a subsisting act of being, and the distinction and order of transcendentals such as being, goodness, and beauty. Intended for advanced undergraduates, graduate students, and teachers, *Aquinas on God's Simplicity and Perfection* throws light on the order of Aquinas's questions, addresses difficulties commonly encountered by modern readers, and includes an exhaustive glossary of all technical terms occurring in the *Summa's* first six Questions.

### Aquinas on God's Simplicity and Perfection

Thinking about God is historical thinking and that in two senses : the idea of God has a history, and those who think about God think through an historically formed mind. The task of the theologian, is not the attempt to move outside his historicity - such an attempt constitutes a fallacy and not a virtue - but to accept its implications and limitations. Methodologically this means that the theologian must point to the historical perspectives that underlie the idea of God in its development and, in his own constructive thought, must work self-consciously with an historical perspective informed by the psychological and cosmological understanding of his own time. This book centers on that idea which traditionally has been associated with the very godness of God - the idea of divine abso luteness - and puts certain historical, logical, religious and, finally, cosmological questions to it. The roots of that idea lie in Greek thought, which entered Christian theology via the early church fathers; even so, there is much indication, particularly in Patristic trinitarian thought, that the Biblical heritage is pushing theological thinking towards a social or relative concept of divine being (ch. 1).

### The Idea of God

SOME years ago, a priest of singularly long and varied experience urged me to write "a book about God." He said that wrong and imperfect notions of God lay at the root of all our religious difficulties. Professor Lewis Campbell says the same thing in his own way in his work, *Religion in Greek Literature*,

where he declares that the age needs "a new definition of God." Thinking the need over, I turned to the *Summa contra Gentiles*. I was led to it by the Encyclical of Leo XIII, *Aeterni Patris*, urging the study of St Thomas. A further motive, quite unexpected, was supplied by the University of Oxford in 1902 placing the *Summa Contra Gentiles* on the list of subjects which a candidate may at his option offer in the Final Honour School of *Literae Humaniores*,—a very unlikely book to be offered so long as it remains simply as St Thomas wrote it. Lastly I remembered that I had in 1892 published under the name of Aquinas *Ethicus* a translation of the principal portions of the second part of St Thomas's *Summa Theologica*: thus I might be reckoned some thing of an expert in the difficult art of finding English equivalents for scholastic Latin.

### Of God and His Creatures

This version of Aquinas' *Summa contra Gentiles* contains the annotations of Joseph Rickaby, early 20th century Jesuit priest and philosopher, alongside the main text. Aquinas meant his treatise to serve as an apologetics handbook for missionaries and philosophers defending the Christian faith against those outside of or hostile to Christianity. The style and content of Aquinas' arguments were particularly relevant to his time. The major religious communities in close proximity to the Christian West—Jewish and Islamic—had developed their various theological views using borrowed terms and ideas from Aristotelian philosophy just as Aquinas himself had.

### Of God and His Creatures

This Is A New Release Of The Original 1905 Edition.

### Of God and His Creatures

Gaven Kerr provides the first book-length study of St. Thomas Aquinas's much neglected proof for the existence of God in *De Ente et Essentia* Chapter 4. He offers a contemporary presentation, interpretation, and defense of this proof, beginning with an account of the metaphysical principles used by Aquinas and then describing how they are employed within the proof to establish the existence of God. Along the way, Kerr engages contemporary authors who have addressed Aquinas's or similar reasoning. The proof developed in the *De Ente* is, on Kerr's reading, independent of many of the other proofs in Aquinas's corpus and resistant to the traditional classificatory schemes of proofs of God. By applying a historical and hermeneutical awareness of the philosophical issues presented by Aquinas's thought and evaluating such philosophical issues with analytical precision, Kerr is able to move through the proof and evaluate what Aquinas is saying, and whether what he is saying is true. By means of an analysis of one of Aquinas's earliest proofs, Kerr highlights a foundational argument that is present throughout the much more commonly studied Thomistic writings, and brings it to bear within the context of analytical philosophy, showing its relevance to the contemporary reader.

### Aquinas's Way to God

Offering a fresh approach to one significant aspect of the soteriology of Thomas Aquinas, *God's Grace and Human Action* brings new scholarship and insights to the issue of merit in Aquinas's theology. Through a careful historical analysis, Joseph P. Wawrykow delineates the precise function of merit in Aquinas's account of salvation. Wawrykow accounts for the changes in Thomas's teaching on merit from the early *Scriptum on the Sentences* of Peter Lombard to the later *Summa theologiae* in two ways. First, he demonstrates how the teaching of the *Summa theologiae* discloses the impact of Thomas's profound encounter with the later writings of Augustine on predestination and grace. Second, Wawrykow notes the implications of Thomas's mature theological judgment that merit is best understood in the context of the plan of divine wisdom. The portrayal of merit in sapiential terms in the *Summa* permits Thomas to insist that the attainment of salvation through merit testifies not only to the dignity of the human person but even more to the goodness of God.

### God's Grace and Human Action

In this contemporary classic, one of the great Catholic philosophers illuminates the methods by which humanity comes to know their God.

### Approaches to God

Herbert McCabe was one of the most original and creative theologians of recent years. Continuum has published numerous volumes of unpublished typescripts left behind by him following his untimely death in 2001. This book is the sixth to appear. McCabe was deeply immersed in the philosophical theology of St Thomas Aquinas and was responsible in part for the notable revival of interest in the thought of Aquinas in our time. Here he tackles the problem of evil by focusing and commenting on what Aquinas said about it. What should we mean by words such as 'good', 'bad', 'being', 'cause', 'creation', and 'God'? These are McCabe's main questions. In seeking to answer them he demonstrates why it cannot be shown that evil disproves God's existence. He also explains how we can rightly think of evil in a world made by God. McCabe's approach to God and evil is refreshingly unconventional given much that has been said about it of late. Yet it is also very traditional. It will interest and inform anyone seriously interested in the topic.

## God and Evil

A twofold tradition, through Augustine and Dionysius, carried the doctrine of 'divine ideas' to Aquinas. It continues to play a key role in his theology and his handling of it allows us to assess the nature of his unique synthesis.

## Ideas in God According to Saint Thomas Aquinas

Aquinas has been traditionally seen as the Christian thinker who was opposed to Platonism and predominantly influenced by the philosophy of Aristotle. In this study, Patrick Quinn argues that the most important aspects of Aquinas' theory of knowledge can only be properly understood when his Platonism is taken into account. Although he agreed with Aristotle that human knowledge is obtained from sensory-based experience, Thomas also insisted that the human mind functions at its best when it acts independently of the senses. This occurs at the most sublime level when the mind is divinely enlightened when God's essence is made visible.

## Aquinas, Platonism, and the Knowledge of God

Gregory Rocca's nuanced discussion prevents Aquinas's thought from being capsulized in familiar slogans and is an antidote to unilateralist or monochrome views about God-talk.

## Speaking the Incomprehensible God

The purpose of this study is to investigate the legitimacy of the principle, "The per accidens necessarily implies the per se," as it is found in the writings of St. Thomas Aquinas. Special emphasis will be placed upon the function of this principle in the proofs for God's existence. The relevance of the principle in this latter context can be seen at once when it is observed that it is the key to the solution of the well known "problem of infinite regress." The investigation of the principle in question will be divided into two Parts. A preliminary examination of the function of the principle will be made in Part I: Domains Other Than That of Creature-God. The domains to be considered in this Part are those of accident-substance, change, and knowledge. Employing what is learned of the function of the principle in these areas of application, Part II: The Domain of Creature-God will analyze the role of the principle in the proofs for God's existence. This latter Part will constitute the greater portion of the book, since the domain of creatures in their relation to God is the most significant application of the principle in the writings of St. Thomas. In the course of this investigation, relevant analyses by St. Thomas' commentators - both classical and contemporary - will be considered. Finally, in light of the insights offered by St.

## Aquinas' Proofs for God's Existence

Part One: The History (What do we know?) This brief historical introduction to Aquinas assesses his impact on the world as it was at the time and outlines the key ideas and values connected with him. It explores the social, political and religious factors that formed the context of his life and writings, and considers how those factors affected the way he was initially received. Part Two: The Legacy (Why does it matter?) This second part surveys the intellectual and cultural 'afterlife' of Aquinas, exploring the ways in which his impact has lasted. Why does he continue to be so influential, and what aspects of his legacy are likely to endure beyond today and into the future? The book has a brief chronology at the front plus a glossary of key terms and a list of further reading at the back. Contents: Preface Chronology Part One: The History 1. Who Was Aquinas? 2. Some Basic Words and Concepts 3. Why Believe in God? 4. What is God? 5. The Christian God 6. Human Beings Part Two: The Legacy 7. From the Time

## Thomas Aquinas

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## The Idea of God

In the *De potentia*, Thomas Aquinas runs a series of disputations on the power of God. The treatise considers ten questions related to God's power to create external things, namely the universe, angels, and human beings. His explanation of creation here is the most developed treatment found in any of his writings, but the principal purpose of the work is to analyze the internal life of God--that is, the Trinity. According to Aquinas, we predicate the Persons of the Trinity as relations, not as absolute things, and he examines the processions of the Son and the Holy Spirit in the light of reason. The complete *De potentia* is a very long document. In this new translation, Fr. Richard Regan offers an abridged version that passes over some of the full text while retaining what is most important when it comes to following the flow of Aquinas's thought.

## The Power of God

This book provides a detailed, updated exposition and defense of five of the historically most important (but in recent years largely neglected) philosophical proofs of God's existence: the Aristotelian, the Neo-Platonic, the Augustinian, the Thomistic, and the Rationalist. It also offers a thorough treatment of each of the key divine attributes—unity, simplicity, eternity, omnipotence, omniscience, perfect goodness, and so forth—showing that they must be possessed by the God whose existence is demonstrated by the proofs. Finally, it answers at length all of the objections that have been leveled against these proofs. This work provides as ambitious and complete a defense of traditional natural theology as is currently in print. Its aim is to vindicate the view of the greatest philosophers of the past—thinkers like Aristotle, Plotinus, Augustine, Aquinas, Leibniz, and many others— that the existence of God can be established with certainty by way of purely rational arguments. It thereby serves as a refutation both of atheism and of the fideism that gives aid and comfort to atheism.

## Five Proofs of the Existence of God