

Contents

<i>Introduction</i>	ix
Chapter 1: Coherence of the Central Claims of Theism	1
1.1. Sentences and Statements	1
1.2. Method for Coherence Test	4
1.3. Meaning of Words in Theological Sentences	5
1.4. The Coherence of Theistic Claims	10
1.4.1. God is an Omnipresent Spirit	10
1.4.2. God is the Creator of Everything	14
1.4.3. God is Perfectly Free	16
1.4.4. God is Omnipotent	18
1.4.5. God is Omniscient	21
1.4.6. God is Perfectly Good	24
1.4.7. God is the Source of Moral Obligation	25
1.4.8. God is Eternal	27
1.4.9. God is Timeless	28
1.4.10. God is Immutable	29
1.5. God: The Personal Ground of Being	30
1.6. God: a Necessary Being and Necessarily a Personal Ground of Being	31
1.6.1. Criteria of Necessity	31
1.6.2. Minimum Essential Kind and Continuity of Experience	33
1.6.3. God: A Necessary Being	35
1.6.4. Criterion of God's Necessary Existence	38

1.6.5. Criterion for God's Being Necessarily a Personal Ground of Being	40
1.6.6. God is Minieentially a Personal Ground of Being	41
1.7. God is Holy and Worthy of Worship	45
Conclusion	46
Chapter 2: Existence of God: Probability and Cumulative Effect	49
2.1. Inductive - <i>A Posteriori</i> Arguments and their Cumulative Effect	49
2.2. Confirmation Theory and the Concept of Probability	52
2.3. Explanations	56
2.3.1. Scientific or Inanimate Explanation	56
2.3.2. Personal Explanation	59
2.3.3. True and Effectual Scientific Explanation	61
2.3.4. A Correct Personal Explanation	62
2.3.5. Full, Partial, Complete and Ultimate Explanations	64
2.4. Prior Probability and the Explanatory Power of Theism	66
2.4.1. The Simplicity of Theism	67
2.4.2. Explanatory Power of Theism	72
2.4.2.1. The Probability of God Creating this Physical Universe and its Phenomena	75
Conclusion	86
Chapter 3: The Strength of the Arguments and the Overall Probability of Theism	87
3.1. The Cosmological Argument	87
3.2. Teleological Arguments	93
3.2.1. Temporal Order	94
3.2.2. Spatial Order	95
3.2.3. Fine Tuning	96
3.2.4. The Argument from Beauty	99
3.3. Argument from Consciousness	100
3.4. Argument from Morality	107

3.4.1. Argument from Moral Truths	107
3.4.2. The Argument from Moral Awareness	110
3.5. Argument from Providence	112
3.6. The Problem of Evil	116
3.7. Argument from Hiddenness	121
3.8. Argument from Miracles	122
3.9. Argument from Religious Experience	127
3.9.1. Experiences in General	127
3.9.2. Religious Experiences	128
3.10. Overall Probability of Theism	132
Conclusion	136
Chapter 4: Critical Analysis of Swinburne's Arguments	139
4.1. Simplicity	139
4.1.1. Is the Simpler Necessarily the More Probable?	140
4.1.2. Swinburne's Interpretation of the Divine Simplicity	141
4.1.3. Is Personal Explanation that Simple?	144
4.1.4. Is the Notion of Infinity that Simple?	145
4.1.5. Some Practical Difficulties	146
4.2. The Cosmological Argument	146
4.2.1. Aristotelian Version	147
4.2.2. Aquinas' Version	148
4.2.3. Leibniz's Cosmological Argument	150
4.2.4. An Appraisal of Swinburne's Version of the Cosmological Argument	151
4.2.4.1. Issues Related to Determining the Prior Probability of Theism	156
4.2.4.2. The Intrinsic Improbability of Theism	157
4.2.4.3. Is God Self-Explanatory?	159
4.2.4.4. Is this Universe Finitely or Infinitely Old?	160
4.3. Teleological Arguments	167
4.3.1. A Temporally Ordered Universe	168
4.3.2. A Spatially Ordered, Fine-tuned and Beautiful Universe	172

4.3.2.1. Argument from all Logically Possible Universes	173
4.3.2.2. Argument from Complex Human Bodies	174
4.3.3. Is the Universe that Beautiful?	177
4.4. Argument from Consciousness	178
4.5. Argument from Morality	183
4.5.1. Kant's Version	183
4.5.2. Newman's Moral Argument	185
4.5.3. Rashdall's Moral Argument	185
4.5.4. Evaluating Swinburne's Moral Argument	186
4.6. Argument from Providence	188
4.7. The Problem of Evil	190
4.7.1. The Higher-Order-Good Defense	191
4.7.2. The Free-Will Defense	193
4.8. The Hiddenness of God	195
4.9. Arguments from Miracles	196
4.10. Argument from Religious Experience	198
4.10.1. Lack of Objectivity	199
4.10.2. Is the Principle of Credulity Applicable to Religious Experiences?	199
4.11. The Cumulative Strategy	206
Conclusion	209
<i>General Conclusion</i>	211
<i>Bibliography</i>	217