

Five Principles that Lie Behind the Argument

Knowledge Entails Truth (KET): Necessarily, if someone knows that a person S will perform action A at time t , then S performs A at t .

Slogan: “If you count as knowing something, then that thing has to be true.”

Divine Foreknowledge of Action (DFA): Necessarily, if S performs A at t , then at every time prior to t , God knows at that earlier time that S will perform A at t .

Slogan: “God knows everything will you do long before you do it.”

The Fixity of the Past (FP): Necessarily, if event E occurs at time t , then after t it is not within anyone’s power to make it so that E did not occur at t .

Slogan: “You can’t change the past.”

Five Principles that Lie Behind the Argument

Transfer of Powerlessness (TP): Necessarily,

if

- (i) it is never within S's power to prevent event E from occurring, and
- (ii) E's occurrence logically entails S's doing A at t,

then

it is never within S's power to avoid doing A at t.

Slogans: “things that are indissolubly connected with other things that are necessary are themselves necessary”
(Edwards 1754, p. 52).

“Whatever is necessarily connected with what is necessary in some sense, is itself necessary in that sense”
(Plantinga 1986, p. 238).

Five Principles that Lie Behind the Argument

Freedom Requires the Power to Do Otherwise (FRP):

Necessarily, if it is never within S's power to avoid doing A at t, then S does not do A freely.

Slogan: "Freedom requires the ability to do otherwise."

Our Official Formulation of the DFF

P1. I ate breakfast this morning.

P2. Necessarily, if I ate breakfast this morning, then God knew in 1000 A.D. that I would eat breakfast this morning. [instance of DFA]

P3. If God knew in 1000 A.D. that I would eat breakfast this morning, then it was never within my power to prevent God's knowing in 1000 A.D. that I would eat breakfast this morning. [instance of FP]

C1. Therefore, it was never within my power to prevent God's knowing in 1000 A.D. that I would eat breakfast this morning. [from P1, P2, P3]

P4. God's knowing in 1000 A.D. that I would eat breakfast this morning entails that I ate breakfast this morning. [instance of KET]

P5. If C1 and P4 are true, then it was never within my power to avoid eating breakfast this morning. [instance of TP]

P6. If it was never within my power to avoid eating breakfast this morning, then I did not eat breakfast this morning freely. [FRPO]

C2. Therefore, I did not eat breakfast this morning freely. [C1, P4, P5, P6]