

Some Puzzles About Omniscience

I. *Feelings and Omniscience*

The Argument From Feelings Against Omniscience

- (1) If there is an omniscient God, then God would know what it is like to experience any human feeling.
- (2) It's not true that God would know what it is like to experience any human feeling.
- (3) Therefore, there is not an omniscient God.

Motivation for Premise 1 - Seems to follow from the concept of omniscience

Motivation for Premise 2 - Perfect Being Theology.

*Augustine thought that God could not feel sorrow, or suffer because it was bad.

*Some perfect being theologians thought that God didn't have feelings because that requires change, and a perfect being cannot experience change.

II. *Freedom and Divine Foreknowledge*

Transfer of Necessity Principle

If P is necessary and it's necessary that (If P, then Q), then Q is necessary.

Transfer of Necessity Principle (in laymen's terms)

If P couldn't possibly be false and (If P, then Q) couldn't possibly be false, then Q couldn't possibly be false.

Principle of Necessity of the Past

Any fact about the past is *now-necessary*. You can't change the past.

The Argument Against Freewill from Omniscience

- (1) Necessarily, God knew *yesterday* that Jones will take the job.
- (2) Necessarily, If God knew *yesterday* that Jones take the job tomorrow, then Jones will take the job tomorrow.
- (3) Therefore, Necessarily Jones will take the job tomorrow.
- (4) If necessarily, Jones will take the job tomorrow, then Jones decision to take the job tomorrow is not free.
- (5) Therefore, Jones decision to take the job tomorrow is not free.

Responses:

Soft Facts

X is a soft-fact =df.) X is a fact about the past that depends in part on fact about the future.

Eternalism

God is outside of time. He sees all times in a sense "at once"

Open Theism

There are no facts about the future