

Lecture 3 Handout

Alexander Arnold
University of Notre Dame
aarnold1@nd.edu

1 September 2009

Argument A A simple statement of the 2nd Way.

A1: Every sensible things has a cause.

A2: If every sensible thing has a cause, then there is a God.

A3: There is a God.

Argument B A more unpacked version of the 2nd Way.

B1: Every sensible things has a cause.

B2: If every sensible things has a cause, then either (i) there is a first cause or (ii) there is an infinite series of causes or (iii) something is its own cause.

B3: Necessarily, nothing is its own cause.

B4: An infinite ordered causal chain is impossible.

B5: Therefore, there is a first cause

...

B6: There is a God.

Argument C An argument for premise B4.

C1: If there is an infinity of causes, then there is no first cause.

C2: If there is no first cause, then there is no intermediate cause.

C3: If there is no intermediate cause, then there is no effect.

C4: But there is an effect.

C5: Therefore, there can be no infinity of causes.