

Aristotelian Proof

The Unmoved Mover

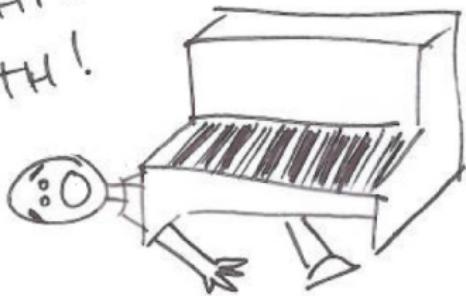
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“Abandoning Aristotelianism, as the founders of modern philosophy did, was the single greatest mistake ever made in the entire history of Western thought.”

E.F.

AAUGH! THIS PIANO
IS CRUSHING ME
TO DEATH!



THE UNMOVED MOVER

At least some things change

From becoming cold or fat. . .

Qualitative change



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Quantitative change



or to dropping and dying. . .

Change of location



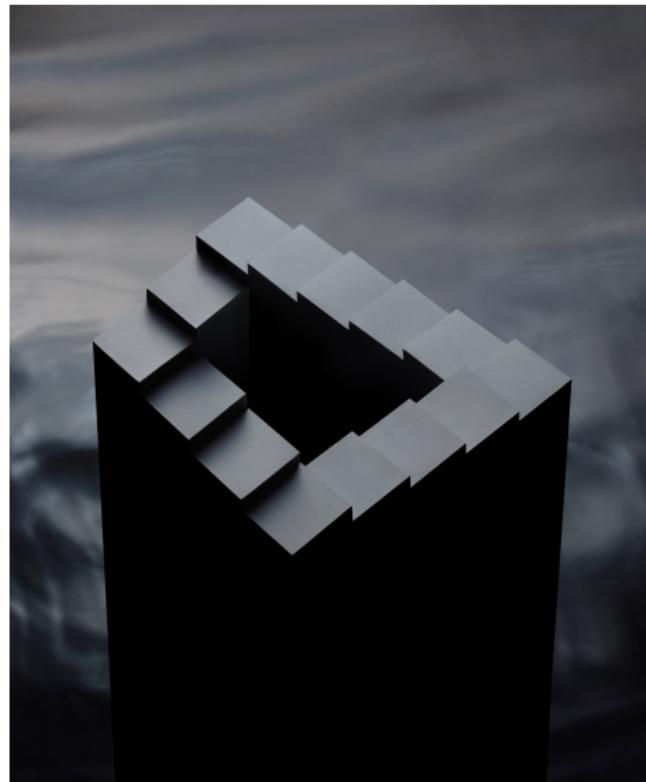
Substantial change



or going from ignorance to knowledge

Casting doubt

Change of mind



Change

- ① There is at least some change in something
- ② To undergo some change, the actual thing being changed must in some way be in potential the thing it becomes
- ③ Things that may change are at once actually something but also potentially something else
- ④ A thing that changes cannot change exclusively by itself

A change needs a changer

through an agent of change

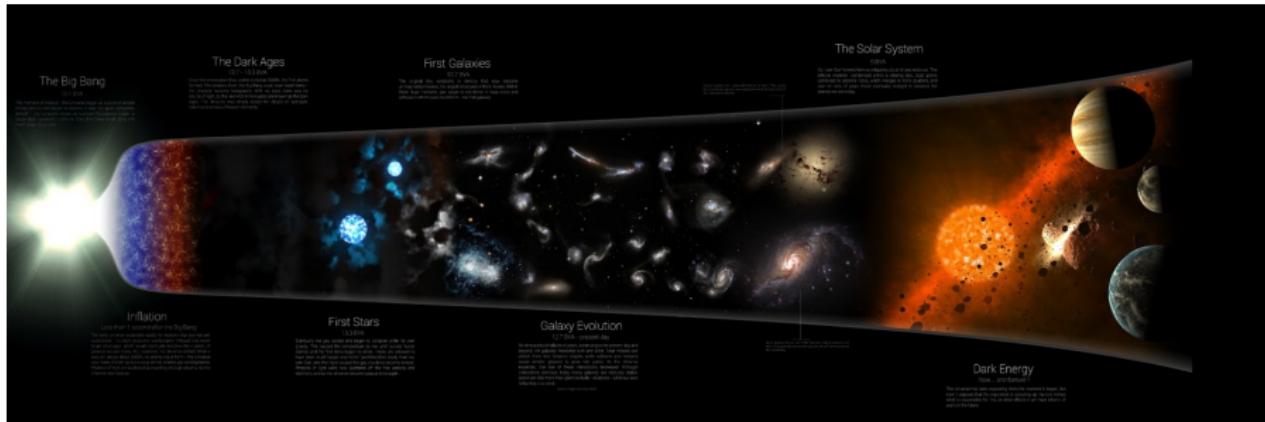
This can be many things...



Agent

- ① Potential 'David' cannot make itself, therefore an agent of change is required
- ② That agent must be actual to bring about the change, therefore what is actual is *prior* to what is potential
- ③ This kind of *linear* change could go on forever...

... or could go back forever



- ① Changes in time could *metaphysically* have no starting point (no first member)
- ② A linear series of changes is not *at once* hierarchically dependent

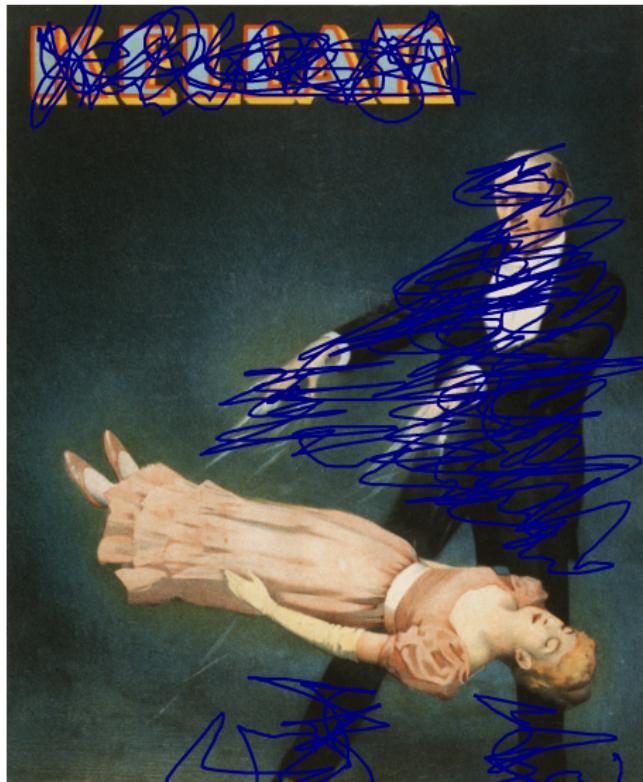
'That's just way it is' - this is also change

Hierarchy of the actual

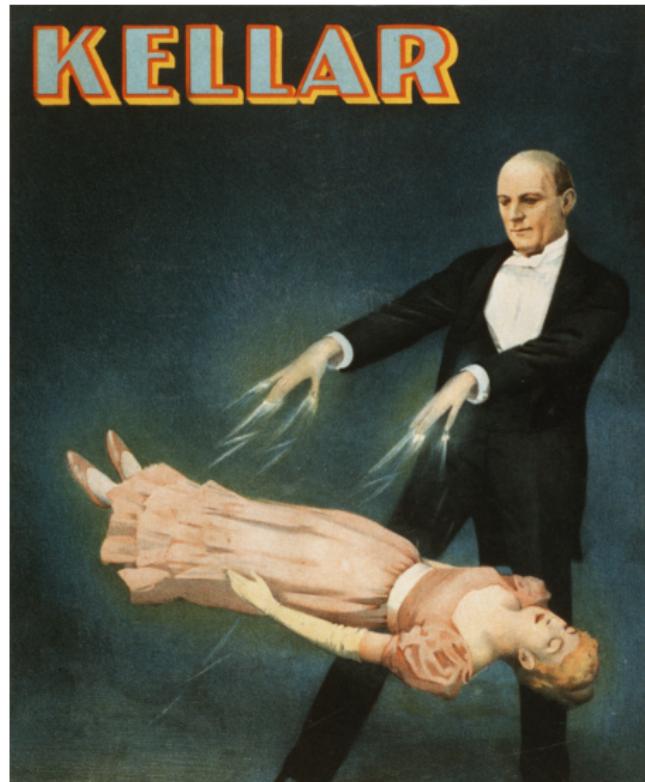
- ① Things that change are described as having potency and act
- ② But something that can change, and is the way it is *here and now*, is also the actualisation of a potential
- ③ This kind of change is hierarchical: if there is no inherent power to be the way it is, this power must be derived

An instrument of real power

Impossible!



An everyday occurrence



First in line

- ① She cannot hold herself in the air by herself
- ② The power to do so is imparted through the great 'Kellar', despite being *merely* an instrument
- ③ She is *potentially* flat on the ground but for the *act* of the intermediary
- ④ But not 'and so on forever': something *actual* must terminate this imparted power

Something that changes must first exist

(But not everything can change)

Object of thought (abstract)

2

Object of some people's thought



Hierarchy of being

- ① Change can happen only if the thing exists
- ② But what keeps the thing in existence *here and now*?
- ③ How something *came to be* or how it might *cease to exist* would not answer the question

Only 'To Be' imparts being

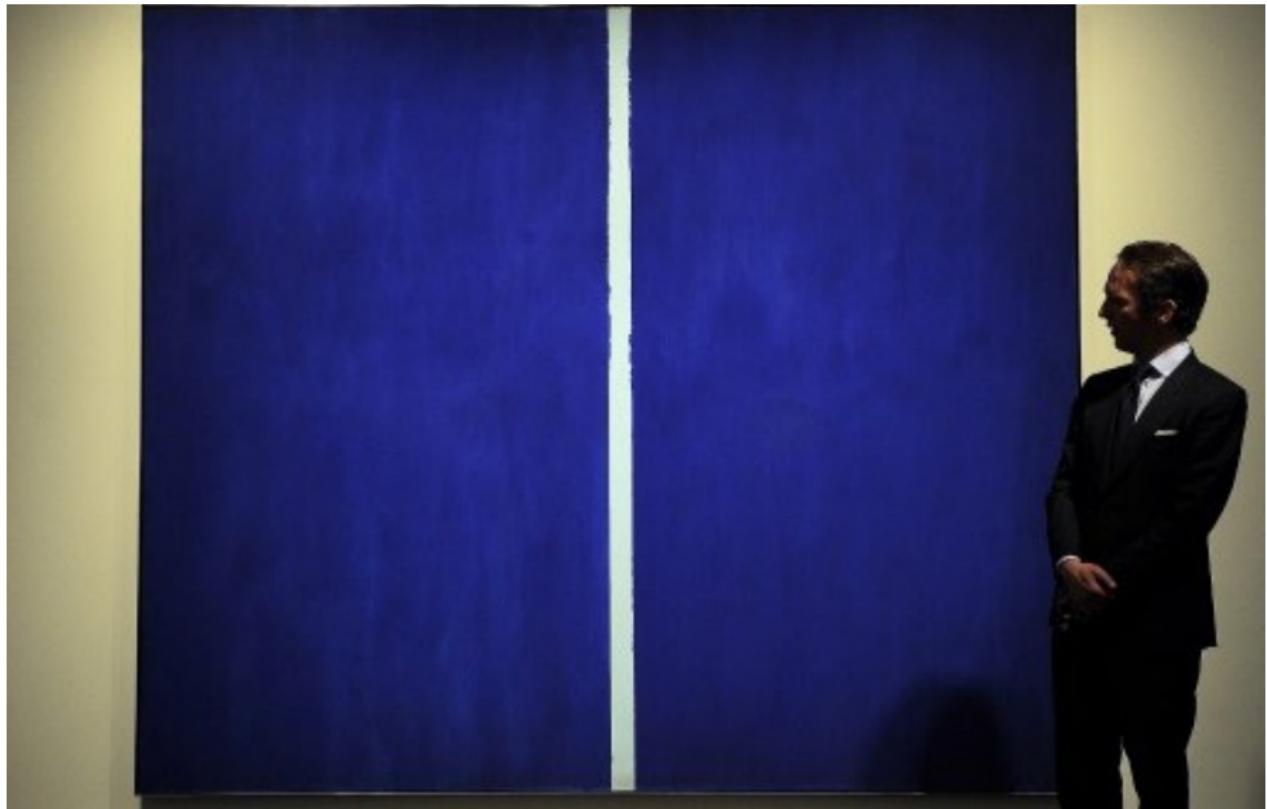


The Unactualised Actualiser

- ① The first cause of existence must have no potential for existence
- ② Pure actuality, then, could not have a cause of its own nor can it change
- ③ Time is a measure of change - therefore not in time
- ④ To be material entails being changeable - therefore not material
- ⑤ ... and other attributes, such as...

Intelligent, of the omniscient kind

There's more to this



Before it was painted, it was thought

- ① Intelligence entails at least knowing the *form* of things, i.e. what things are essentially
- ② Whatever is in an effect, must in some way be in the totality of its cause
- ③ The cause of a thing's existence must also be the cause of the form of its existence
- ④ And so too for all that is

Further reading

Edward Feser

