

# Aristotelian Proof

## The Unmoved Mover

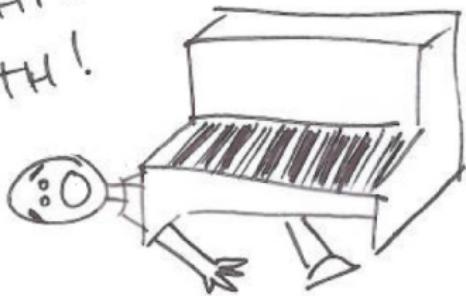
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*“Abandoning Aristotelianism, as the founders of modern philosophy did, was the single greatest mistake ever made in the entire history of Western thought.”*

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



Quantitative change



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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

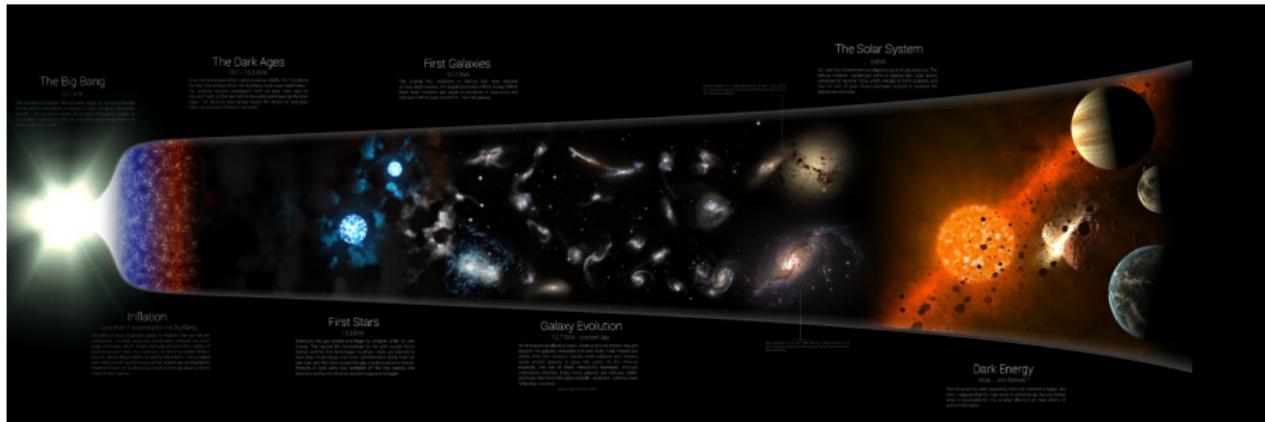
This can be many things...



## 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

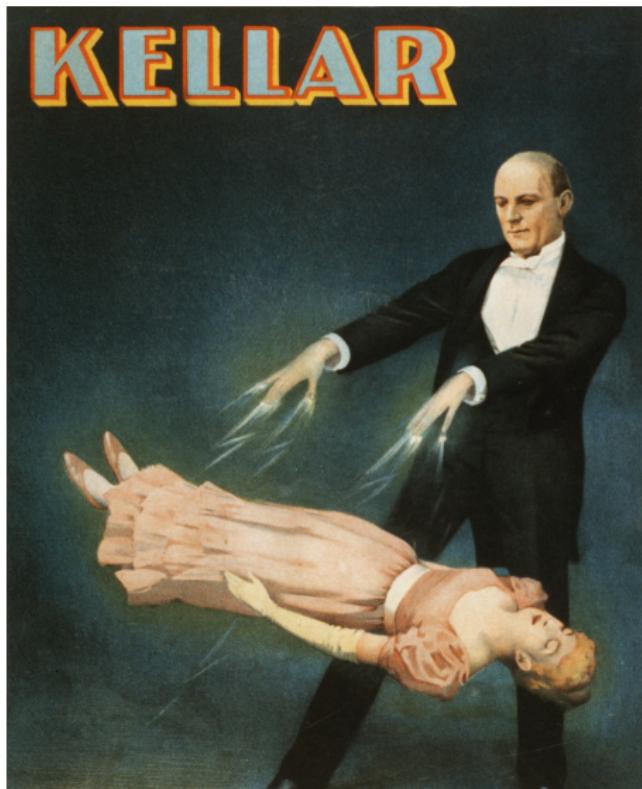
- ① Things that change are described as having potency and act
- ② But something that can change, and is the way it is *here and now*, is also the actualisation of a potential
- ③ This kind of change is hierarchical: if there is no inherent power to be the way it is, this power must be derived

# 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

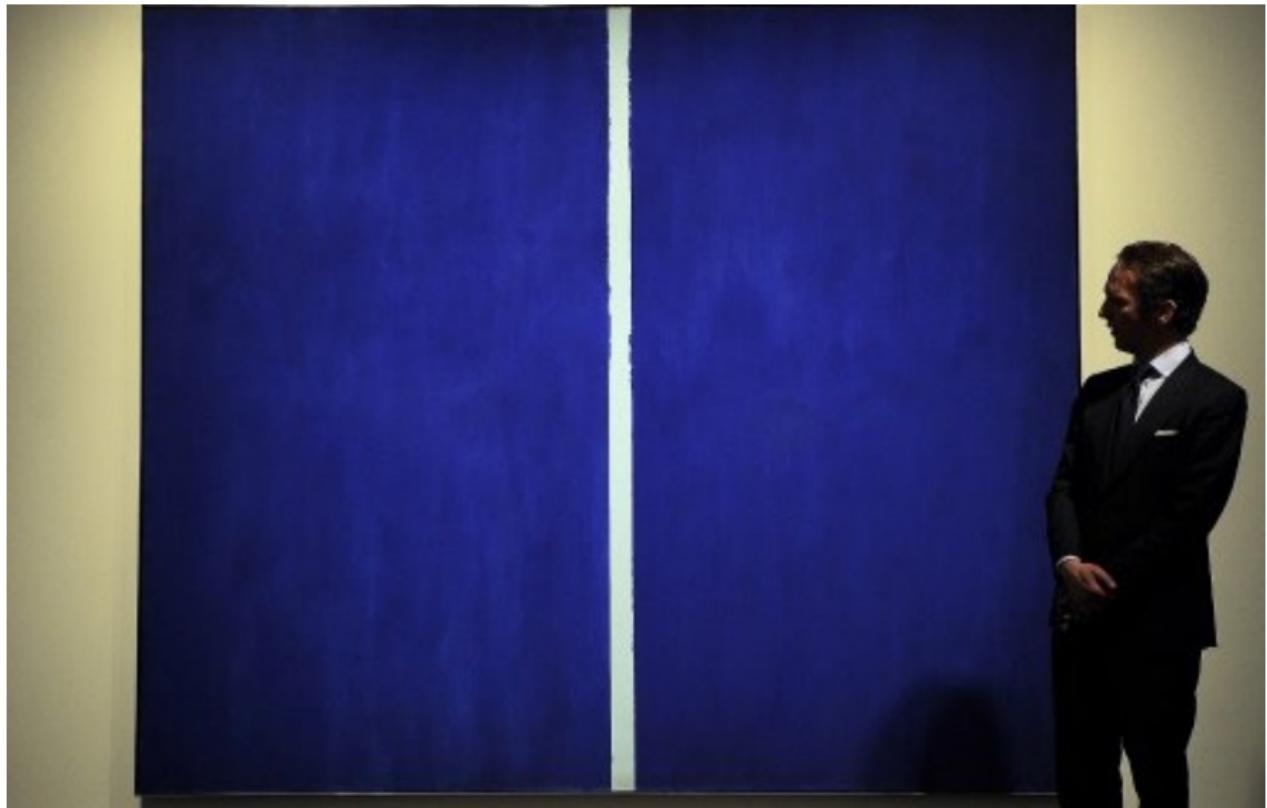


## *The Unactualised Actualiser*

- 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

