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Contents

Here are the basic propositions and the letters we are going to abbreviate them to.

God exists	<i>E</i>
God is omnipotent	<i>P</i>
God is omniscient	<i>O</i>
God is benevolent	<i>B</i>
God can prevent Evil	<i>D</i>
God knows that Evil exists	<i>K</i>
God prevents Evil	<i>J</i>
Evil exists	<i>V</i>

$$\text{If God exists then He is omnipotent.} \quad E \rightarrow P \quad (1)$$

$$\text{If God exists then He is omniscient.} \quad E \rightarrow O \quad (2)$$

$$\text{If God exists then He is benevolent.} \quad E \rightarrow B \quad (3)$$

$$\begin{array}{l} \text{If God can prevent Evil then—if He} \\ \text{knows that Evil exists—then He is not} \\ \text{benevolent if He does not prevent it.} \end{array} \quad D \rightarrow (K \rightarrow (\neg J \rightarrow \neg B)) \quad (4)$$

$$\text{If God is omnipotent, He can prevent Evil.} \quad P \rightarrow D \quad (5)$$

$$\begin{array}{l} \text{If God is omniscient then He knows that} \\ \text{Evil exists if it does indeed exist.} \end{array} \quad O \rightarrow (V \rightarrow K) \quad (6)$$

$$\text{Evil does not exist if God prevents it.} \quad J \rightarrow \neg V \quad (7)$$

$$\text{Evil exists.} \quad V \quad (8)$$

We want to persuade ourselves that God does not exist. Well, suppose he does. Let's deduce a contradiction

Assume E . Then (1), (2) and (3) give us

$$P \quad (9),$$

$$O \quad (10)$$

and

$$B \quad (11)$$

Now that we know O , (6) tells us that

$$V \rightarrow K \quad (12)$$

But we know V (that was (8)) so we know

$$K \quad (13)$$

We know P , so (5) tells us that

$$D \quad (14)$$

We can feed D into (4) and infer

$$K \rightarrow (\neg J \rightarrow \neg B) \quad (15)$$

But we know K (that was line 13) so we get

$$\neg J \rightarrow \neg B \quad (16)$$

(8) and (7) together tell us $\neg J$, so we get $\neg B$. But we got B at line 11.

[illegible]