

Aquinas' First Way: a cosmological argument

Revised draft:

1. We sense that there are some things in the world that are in motion.
2. Motion itself is the transformation from the *potential* to move, to *actual* movement.
3. Nothing can be transformed from potential to actual movement except through another thing that is in actual movement.
4. That which is in actuality cannot be in potential at the same moment.
5. So any single thing cannot be the mover and the moved at the very same time, i.e., nothing can move itself (by 2, 3, 4).
6. If something is moved, then, it must have been moved by something else, and that something must have been moved by something else.
7. If there were no first mover, then nothing would have transformed anything from potential to actual movement.
8. So, if there were no first mover, there would be no movement (by 2-7).
9. So, this chain of movement cannot be infinite; something must be the first mover (by 7, 8).
10. The first mover is moved by no other, and this first mover can be understood to be God.