

Total points: 10

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Instructions:

- (i) Submit in Turnitin. Section: **Assignments**
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An eleventh-century monk named Gaunilo wrote a famous parody of Anselm's ontological argument:

It is said that somewhere in the ocean is an island... which has an inestimable wealth of all manner of riches and delicacies [and which] is more excellent than all other countries, which are inhabited by mankind, in the abundance with which it is stored. Now if someone should tell me that there is such an island, I should easily understand his words, in which there is no difficulty. But suppose that he went on to say, as if by a logical inference: "You can no longer doubt that this island, which is more excellent than all lands exists somewhere, since you have no doubt that it is in your [mind]. And since it is more excellent not to be in the [mind] alone, but to exist both in the [mind] and in reality, for this reason it must exist [in reality]. for if it does not exist [in reality], any land which really exists will be more excellent than it; and so the island already understood by you to be more excellent will not be more excellent."

How might a proponent of the ontological argument for the existence of God distinguish Gaunilo's proof from Anselm's?

You could consider laying out Gaunilo's argument and show in what respects it is similar to Anselm's argument. You may then think about what mistake Gaunilo type arguments might be committing as a satisfying response on behalf of Anselm. Note that Anselm himself has responded to Gaunilo. I've uploaded a book *Philosophy in the Middle Ages* (edited by Hyman, Walsh and Williams, Hackett, 2010) in Teams where you can read what Anselm thought about Gaunilo's argument. However, you don't have to explore this. You may, if you are interested but your answer should not be a summary of what Anselm said. This assignment asks you to engage with Gaunilo's argument by analyzing it using the tools and techniques you have learnt.