

# **The Classical Teleological Argument**

## **PHIL 101 Self, World, & God**

### **An Elaborate Thought Experiment**

- 1. The expedition**
- 2. Clumsy Dudley**
- 3. The rock sample**
- 4. The accident**
- 5. What's inside**
- 6. The object**
- 7. How did it get there?**
- 8. Articulate three hypotheses**

## **My Claim about Inter-subjectivity**

- **Inter-subjectivity**
- **Let's put it to the test**
- **Tabulation**
- **Are there patterns?**
- **What captures our attention?**
  - **Structure and order**
  - **Purpose**

## **Kalam Cosmological Argument**

**$E_1$ . The physical universe exists.**

**$E_2$ . It came into existence 10 to 20 billion years ago.**

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**$T_0$ . God exists and created it.**

## **Teleological Argument**

**Look round the world: contemplate the whole and every part of it: You will find it to be nothing but one great machine, subdivided into an infinite number of lesser machines, which again admit of subdivisions to a degree beyond what human senses and faculties can trace and explain. All these various machines, and even their most minute parts, are adjusted to each other with an accuracy which ravishes into admiration all men who have ever contemplated them. The curious adapting of means to ends, throughout all nature, resembles exactly, though it much exceeds, the productions of human contrivance; of human design, thought, wisdom, and intelligence. Since, therefore, the effects resemble each other, we are led to infer, by all the rules of analogy, that the causes also resemble; and that the Author of Nature is somewhat similar to the mind of man, though possessed of much larger faculties, proportioned to the grandeur of the work which he has executed. By this argument a posteriori, and by this argument alone, do we prove at once the existence of a Deity, and his similarity to human mind and intelligence.**

## **Paley's Watch**

**In crossing a heath, suppose I pitched my foot against a stone and were asked how the stone came to be there, I might possibly answer that for anything I knew to the contrary it had lain there forever; nor would it, perhaps, be very easy to show the absurdity of this answer. But suppose I had found a watch upon the ground, and it should be inquired how the watch happened to be in that place, I should hardly think of the answer which I had before given, that for anything I knew the watch might have always been there. Yet why should not this answer serve for the watch as well as for the stone? Why is it not as admissible in the second case as in the first?**

## **Paley's Watch Continued**

**For this reason, and for no other, namely, that when we come to inspect the watch, we perceive -- what we could not discover in the stone -- that its several parts are framed and put together for a purpose, e.g., that they are so formed and adjusted as to produce motion, and that motion so regulated as to point out the hour of the day; that if the different parts had been differently shaped from what they are, of a different size from what they are, or placed after any other manner or in any other order than that in which they are placed, either no motion at all would have been carried on in the machine, or none which would have answered the use that is now served by it.**

## **Classical Teleological Argument**

**E<sub>1</sub>. The physical universe exists.**

**E<sub>2</sub>. It came into existence 10 to 20 billion years ago.**

**E<sub>3</sub>. The biological world exhibits tremendous structure, order and purpose.**

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**T<sub>0</sub>. God exists, designed and created it.**

## **Biological Structure, Order, and Purpose**

- **Theistic explanation**
- **Rivals in Hume and Paley's time**
  - **Secular naturalism**
  - **Religious pluralism**
- **The Darwinian rival**
- **Understanding Darwin**
- **The best explanation?**