

Medieval Philosophy

God and Knowledge, Faith and Reason

St. Augustine of Hippo

From Carthage

- Mystic
- Converts to Christianity late in life

“The Problem of Evil”

Tried to apply the deductive logic of Plato in an effort to prove Christian dogma.

= Neoplatonism

Plato's Ideal forms ARE God



St. Augustine's Conclusions

God is Perfect, but people suck. (If your life sucks, it's your fault.)

There is no evil, really. God is more or less present in everything:

- More present=good.
- Less present =evil

Reason alone won't make you good. God's Grace is needed.

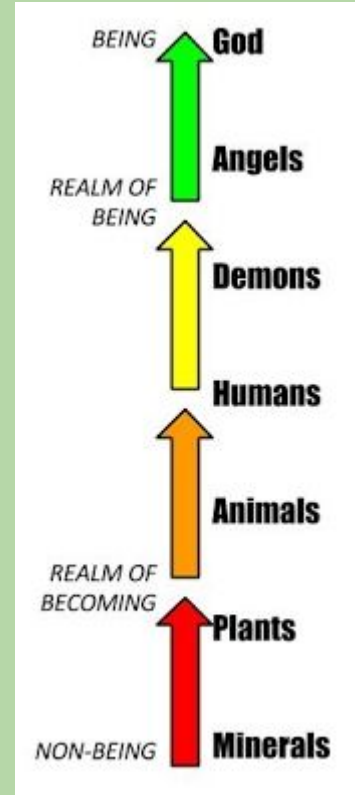
The good man is free,
even if he is a slave.
The evil man is a
slave, even if he is a
king.

Augustine Of Hippo

St. Augustine cont'd

The search for truth:

St. Augustine vs. The sceptics (267-269)



St. Anselm

The “Ontological Proof”



Scholasticism

Church officials looked to Plato,
college professors looked to
Aristotle

Neoplatonists used reason to
prove faith, scholastics focused
on reason as long as it didn't
contradict religion.

Neoplatonists tried to unify
everything under a single mystic
truth, scholastics went "logic
chopping."

Anselm of Canterbury



For I do not seek to understand
in order to believe, but I believe
in order to understand. For I
believe this: unless I believe, I
will not understand.

AZ QUOTES

Scholastic Origins

Scholasticism borrows from writings long lost to Europe.

Ibn Sina: taught that God had only indirect knowledge of the living.

Ibn Rushd (Averroes): Embraced Aristotle's view of a mortal soul.

Heavily influenced St. Thomas Aquinas



Ignorance leads to fear, fear leads to hate, and hate leads to violence. This is the equation.

~ Averroes

Logic Chopping

Scholastics went to great lengths to organize and categorize the material world

- Slush: Quality of snow or type of snow?

Use Aristotle's logic, not ethics. Apply deduction to prove what you already know through faith.

REALLY big on wordplay.



St. Thomas Aquinas

Tried to use the logic of Aristotle to prove the existence of God.

THOMAS AQUINAS

5 WAYS TO PROVE GOD'S EXISTENCE (SUMMA THEOLOGICA) :

- 1) The Proof from Motion - The First Mover
- 2) The Proof from Efficient Cause - The First Maker
- 3) The Proof from Contingency - The Necessary Being
- 4) The Proof from Degrees of Perfection - The Most Perfect Being
- 5) The Proof from Design - The Designer/ Creator

