The 1st Cause Argument
A.K.A. The Cosmological Argument

CLASS NOTES

LOGIC 101

Syllogism = A structure or format for an argument in which you have two (or more) true statements (premises) which automatically lead to a true conclusion.

Example:

Premise 1: All human beings will die someday.
Premise 2: I am a human being.
Conclusion: Therefore, I will die someday.

The 1st Cause Argument (A.K.A. The Cosmological Argument)

The basic argument:

P1: Everything that begins to exist has a cause.
P2: The universe began to exist (The Big Bang).
C: Therefore, the universe has a first cause. This first, uncaused cause, is what we call God.

Who created God? (video notes)

Not everything needs a creator – only things that begin to exist need a creator.

Because God, by definition, is uncreated, asking what created God is like asking, “What created an uncreated thing?” This is as silly as asking, “What does a four-sided triangle look like?”

Many atheists prior to the 20th century said the universe always existed. But since all modern science suggests that the universe came into existence at one point in time (about 13.7 billion years ago through “The Big Bang”), there has to be some cause (reason) for its existence.

Many of the New Atheists (like Richard Dawkins) use the “Who created God?” question to disprove the existence of God, while more intelligent atheists think doing so is stupid.
Question: So who created God?
Answer: No one. God is eternal (He has always existed).

When Moses experienced the burning bush and asked God what His name was (Exodus 3:13-14), God responded, “__________”. In other words, God said, “I am Being itself” (existence itself). God declared to Moses that He is not another thing that can be found and scientifically studied in nature (like grass or a cow or some distant thing in the galaxy), but is in fact above and beyond nature. In other words, God is not natural (in nature) but supernatural (outside of nature).

Where is God on the timeline?

God, who created time, exists outside of time. Because of this, all time exists (in a sense) as one moment to God.

However, God entered time when he took on human flesh (the Incarnation) and became one of us around 4 BC. But because Jesus was God he not only experienced the physical pain and suffering of the crucifixion but also the spiritual pain of the sins we would commit some 2,000 years later and every sin others would commit in human history.

A little analogy: It’s kind of like God is the author of a big story with tons of characters. As the author, He is above and outside the story, yet He knows what already happened at the beginning of the story and what will happen at the end of the story (and everything in-between). The main difference, however, is that God allows the characters in the book (us) to write part of the story through our own free will (choices).

Conclusion

There are bajillions of things that exist. They either came from something or from nothing. But we know that nothing can come from nothing, so everything must have come from something. This something is what we call God.

While some of the details of The 1st Cause Argument are rather philosophical and tough to fully understand, it also seems rather commonsensical. As C. S. Lewis put it, "I felt in my bones that this universe does not explain itself."