

A person in a dark jacket and shorts stands on a rocky shore, looking out at a sunset over the ocean. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a bright orange glow and a reflection on the water. The sky is filled with colorful clouds. The image is split diagonally, with the left side being dark and the right side being bright.

An Effort to Harmonize Omniscience and Free Will

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Thesis



- ❖ Definition of Omniscience
- ❖ Difficulties of Omniscience
- ❖ God's omniscience vs. humans' free will
- ❖ Compatibilist approaches
Boethius, William of Ockham,
Luis de Molina
- ❖ Molinism

“In this paper, I will argue that among other compatibilist approaches, Molina’s approach to harmonizing omniscience and free will by defining how God knows is the *most* internally consistent.”

The background of the slide is a cosmic nebula, split diagonally from the top-left to the bottom-right. The upper-left portion is dark and features wispy, brownish-grey clouds. The lower-right portion is vibrant, showing a mix of green, yellow, and orange hues with bright, glowing regions and scattered white stars.

Defining Omniscience

“Omniscience is usually analyzed as knowing the truth value of every proposition”

Problems with Divine Omniscience and Human Free Will

- ❖ How much freedom do humans have?
- ❖ “No human action is voluntary”
- ❖ The presence of evil
- ❖ God’s omnibenevolence

Approaches

❖ Incompatibilist approaches

Fatalist stance

Process Theology

❖ Compatibilist approaches

Boethius

William of Ockham

Luis de Molina

Boethius

- ❖ God's knowledge is timeless
- ❖ Ambiguity of the timeless realm
- ❖ Does not avoid the problem

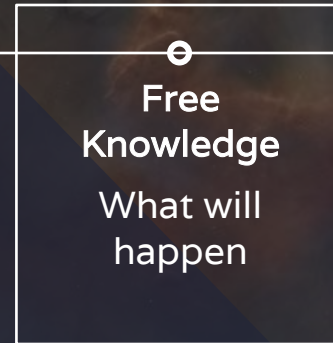
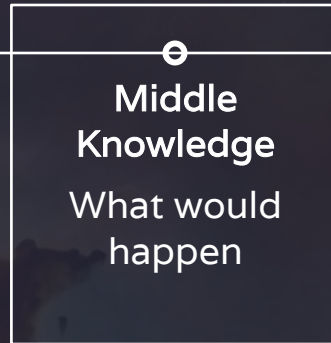
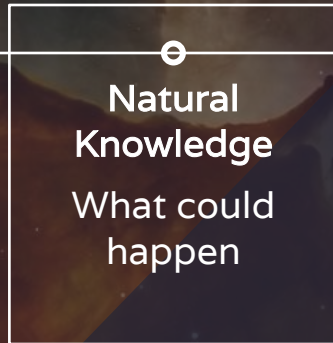
Ockham

- ❖ God's knowledge is in time
- ❖ God's past knowledge is contingent upon a future event
- ❖ God knows future contingents, contingently
- ❖ What is the difference?
- ❖ Does not avoid the problem

Molina

❖ Shows *how* God knows

GOD'S KNOWLEDGE



Molina

- ❖ Shows *how* God knows
- ❖ Middle Knowledge
- ❖ Counterfactuals
- ❖ How does this avoid theological fatalism?
- ❖ What about the presence of evil?



Conclusion

- ❖ Boethian and Ockhamist approaches fail to avoid the problem
- ❖ Molinism explains how God is omniscient, and human's have free will
- ❖ Still unsatisfactory?

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