

4...because you're in good company if you do...

Throughout history, the great philosophers, the ones on whom we base western thought and civilization, all shared a common belief in the transcendent, something independent of time, place or culture: the beautiful, the good and the true, from which there must be a Source of Beauty, Goodness and Truth.

Pagan: Aristotle, Socrates, Plato

- These philosophers all acknowledged that there was some transcendent Being, greater even than even the gods of paganism. Socrates was even willing to die for this belief.

Jewish: Moses, Gamaliel (who actually converted to Christianity and is now a Saint), Maimonides, Abraham Skorka

Muslim: Avicenna, Avicenna, Josephine Bakhita (who also converted to Christianity and is now a Saint)

- These two groups were both shaped by the theology of the Old Testament.

Christian: Sts. Paul of Tarsus, Thomas Aquinas, and Teresa of Avila, Mortimer Adler

- The people of this group were also shaped by the Old Testament, but also acknowledged the Divinity of Jesus Christ.

While these four parties sometimes had different ideas about God, they all agreed that there was a Source of all goodness, beauty and truth who must be sought with all one's energy. They call this Source, God.

5...because it answers your "whys"...

- **"Why are humans different?"**

We are different from any other created being. We are the only known animal that can study itself. Even if some other creature with this ability were discovered, it would not change how important this gift is in distinguishing us from animals.

- **"Why is there 'good' and 'evil' at all?"**

Though many disagree on what is right or wrong, it is only because there is a right and wrong to disagree about in the first place.

- **"Why is there something rather than nothing?"**

This does not concern the physical process of how the world came to be, like the reason for planets or even "The Big Bang". This question is more fundamental than any other a person can ask. If nothing really is nothing, how could something come from it? There must be something, or Someone, rather, from which all things come.



5 Good Reasons... why YOU should believe in God

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1...because you're here...

Despite the common phrase, “man is an island,” and our best efforts towards independence, we all needed someone to enter into life and will always need others until we die.

We can take comfort in knowing we share this sense of *contingency* with every other created thing in existence. Every created thing is contingent on something coming before it, making existence possible.

One can follow this line of contingency all the way back to the start of the universe, and even then you must still continue. Even **“The Big Bang”** needed *materials* to “Bang,” a *concept* of energy to do the “Banging” and a *plane* of existence where a “Bang” could occur.

Eventually, one can only move backwards so far that one runs out of created things and will only find the Un-created Creator.

2...because there is right and wrong...

Though people have always disagreed on the specifics of **“right”** and **“wrong,”** there has always been a *concept* of right and wrong to which people try to adhere.

Though bravery takes different forms in different situations, it is always “good” to be brave.

It's one thing to argue if modesty requires a hat in church. It's another completely if the argument is over the benefit of modesty itself.

While we might disagree with ancient cultures on what is right or wrong in various aspects, we can only say something was right or wrong now because we know there is a “right” and “wrong” to begin with.

The concept of good and bad transcends culture and could not have been created by man, who is culturally conditioned, **but only by God**, Who also transcends culture.

3...because you recognize standards...

All humans inherently recognize “degrees of perfection”. This is only because we acknowledge ideals to which things conform or not conform by whatever degree.

This relates similarly to “Reason 2,” but requires it's own category because it applies to the “metaphysical good” and not the “moral good”

Plato alluded the this idea when he discussed the “forms” of objects. An example being we know something is or is not a chair because we have an idea of “chair-ness” in our heads. This is the form of a chair. Also, we can only say something is “green-ish” because we have a concept of perfect “green-ness”.

To say a basketball player is skilled is to say there is a standard of skill in the sport of basketball. To say one is “good” only expresses how closely that player adheres to that standard.

One could think about God in a similar way, as “that which no greater can be thought” or the perfect standard to which all things try to conform.