

The Fifth Way – An argument based on teleology.

Note: Teleology is the study of the purpose (or “final end” in the Aristotelian sense of the term) of the cosmos. This argument is often called an argument from “Design” because it is based on that there is some observable design or purpose in the universe.

1. All natural bodies act toward certain ends.

2. Anything that acts toward an end must act either out of knowledge or under the direction of something with knowledge, .e.g., "as the arrow is directed by the archer."

3. But many natural beings lack knowledge.

4. “Therefore some intelligent being exists by whom all natural things are directed to their end; and this being we call God” (HW 527).