

David Hume Dialogues *and* Natural History of Religion

OXFORD WORLD'S CLASSICS

Dialogues And Natural History Of Religion

David Hume, Richard H. Popkin

Dialogues And Natural History Of Religion:

Dialogues and Natural History of Religion David Hume, 1998 David Hume is the greatest and also one of the most provocative philosophers to have written in the English language No philosopher is more important for his careful critical and deeply perceptive examination of the grounds for belief in divine powers and for his sceptical accounts of the causes and consequences of religious belief expressed most powerfully in the Dialogues Concerning Natural Religion and The Natural History of Religion The Dialogues ask if belief in God can be inferred from the nature of the universe or whether it is even consistent with what we know about the universe The Natural History of Religion investigates the origins of belief and follows its development from harmless polytheism to dogmatic monotheism Together they constitute the most formidable attack upon the rationality of religious belief ever mounted by a philosopher This edition also includes Section XI of The Enguiry Concerning Human Understanding and a letter concerning the Dialogues as well as particularly helpful critical apparatus and abstracts of the main texts enabling the reader to locate or relocate key topics Natural Religion David Hume, 1779 Dialogues Concerning Natural Religion is a philosophical work by the Scottish philosopher David Hume Through dialogue three philosophers named Demea Philo and Cleanthes debate the nature of God s existence Whether or not these names reference specific philosophers ancient or otherwise remains a topic of scholarly dispute While all three agree that a god exists they differ sharply in opinion on God's nature or attributes and how or if humankind can come to knowledge of a deity In the Dialogues Hume's characters debate a number of arguments for the existence of God and arguments whose proponents believe through which we may come to know the nature of God Such topics debated include the argument from design for which Hume uses a house and whether there is more suffering or good in the world argument from evil Hume started writing the Dialogues in 1750 but did not complete them until 1776 shortly before his death They are based partly on Cicero's De Natura Deorum The Dialogues were published posthumously in 1779 originally with neither the author's nor the publisher's name Pamphilus is a youth present during the dialogues In a letter he reconstructs the conversation of Demea Philo and Cleanthes in detail for his friend Hermippus He serves as the narrator throughout the piece At the end of the Dialogues he believes that Cleanthes offered the strongest arguments However this could be out of loyalty to his teacher as this does not seem to reflect Hume s own views on the topic When other pieces on religion by Hume are taken into consideration it may be noted that they all end with apparently ironic statements reaffirming the truth of Christian religious views While the irony may be less readily evident in the Dialogues this would suggest a similar reading of this work s ending 2 Cicero used a similar technique in his Dialogues Cleanthes is an experimental theist an exponent of orthodox empiricism 3 who bases his beliefs about God s existence and nature upon a version of the teleological argument which uses evidence of design in the universe to argue for God's existence and resemblance to the human mind Philo according to the predominant view among scholars is the character who presents views most similar to those of Hume

4 Philo along with Demea attacks Cleanthes views on anthropomorphism and teleology while not going as far as to deny the existence of God Philo asserts that human reason is wholly inadequate to make any assumptions about the divine whether through a priori reasoning or observation of nature Demea defends the Cosmological argument and philosophical theism He believes that the existence of God should be proven through a priori reasoning and that our beliefs about the nature of God should be based upon revelation and fideism Demea rejects Cleanthes natural religion for being too anthropomorphic Demea objects to the abandonment of the a priori arguments by Philo and Cleanthes both of whom are empiricists and perceives Philo to be accepting an extreme form of skepticism Principal Writings on Religion Including Dialogues Concerning Natural Religion; And, The Natural History of Religion David Hume, 1993 Presents four works that are central to the 18th century Scottish philosopher's campaign against organized religion The three posthumous essays were probably written at the height of his campaign but he dropped the project on advice from a friend The spelling capitalization and punctuation are modernized and the speakers of each dialogue are identified with bold type First published in 1980 No index Paper edition unseen 5 95 Annotation copyrighted by Book News Inc Portland OR Hume: Dialogues Concerning Natural Religion Dorothy Coleman, 2007-04-12 David Hume's Dialogues concerning Natural Religion first published in 1779 is one of the most influential works in the philosophy of religion and the most artful instance of philosophical dialogue since the dialogues of Plato It presents a fictional conversation between a sceptic an orthodox Christian and a Newtonian theist concerning evidence for the existence of an intelligent cause of nature based on observable features of the world This edition presents it together with several of Hume's other shorter writings about religion and with brief selections from the work of Pierre Bayle who influenced both Hume's views on religion and the dialectical style of the Dialogues The volume is completed by an introduction which sets the Dialogues in its philosophical and historical contexts Dialogues Concerning Natural Religion (Second Edition) David Hume, Richard H. Popkin, 1998-03-12 Hume's brilliant and dispassionate essay Of Miracles has been added in this expanded edition of his Dialogues Concerning Natural Religion which also includes Of the Immortality of the Soul Of Suicide and Richard Popkin's illuminating Introduction **David Hume: On Religion** David Hume, 2023-12-09 In David Hume On Religion renowned philosopher David Hume presents a critical examination of religious belief through his signature empirical lens The book engages with major theological concepts unsettling dogmatic doctrines while advocating for a rational approach to understanding faith Employing a rich blend of philosophical essay polemic and intellectual inquiry Hume s literary style is characterized by its clarity and eloquence making complex ideas accessible Positioned within the Enlightenment tradition this work grapples with the tension between human reason and religious belief challenging contemporary thought and laying the groundwork for future philosophical discourse Hume a central figure of the Scottish Enlightenment was profoundly influenced by the empirical methods of observation and skepticism toward established norms His own experiences and the intellectual climate of 18th century Scotland marked by burgeoning ideas of personal liberty

and human rationality inspired his critical stance on religion Straddling the delicate interplay of faith and reason Hume s inquiries reflect both a personal and philosophical struggle with the nature of belief David Hume On Religion is a must read for anyone interested in philosophy theology or the historical context of religious thought Hume s incisive reasoning and engaging prose invite readers to ponder their convictions while cultivating a deeper understanding of the human condition

Dialogues Concerning Natural Religion (Dodo Press) David Hume, 2009-05 David Hume 1711 1776 was a Scottish philosopher economist historian and a key figure in the history of Western philosophy and the Scottish Enlightenment He is often grouped with John Locke George Berkeley and a handful of others as a British Empiricist During Hume s lifetime he was more famous as a historian his six volume History of England was a bestseller well into the nineteenth century and the standard work on English history for many years Hume was the first philosopher of the modern era to develop a systematically naturalistic philosophy In the twentieth century he has increasingly become a source of inspiration for those in political philosophy and economics as an early and subtle thinker in the liberal tradition as well as an early innovator in the genre of the essay in his Essays Moral Political and Literary After the publication of Essays Moral and Political in 1744 he applied for the Chair of Pneumatics and Moral Philosophy at the University of Edinburgh From 1763 to 1765 Hume was Secretary to Lord Hertford in Paris where he was admired by Voltaire and lionised by the ladies in society Hume's **Dialogues Concerning Natural Religion** David Hume, 1948 The Natural History of Religion Hume, David, 2017-04-20 Hume's Natural History of Religion may with his Dialogues Concerning Natural Religion be held to mark the beginning of the Philosophy of Religion Not so clearly a text illustrating modern technology indeed in its own day it was regarded as skeptical and subversive the Natural History is remarkably illustrative of the development of religious thought and is a brilliant philosophical contribution to the interpretation of religion Dialogues and Natural History of Religion David Hume, 2012-08-01 Originally published Oxford New York Oxford University Press 1998

Reviewing Dialogues And Natural History Of Religion: Unlocking the Spellbinding Force of Linguistics

In a fast-paced world fueled by information and interconnectivity, the spellbinding force of linguistics has acquired newfound prominence. Its capacity to evoke emotions, stimulate contemplation, and stimulate metamorphosis is actually astonishing. Within the pages of "**Dialogues And Natural History Of Religion**," an enthralling opus penned by a very acclaimed wordsmith, readers attempt an immersive expedition to unravel the intricate significance of language and its indelible imprint on our lives. Throughout this assessment, we shall delve in to the book is central motifs, appraise its distinctive narrative style, and gauge its overarching influence on the minds of its readers.

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