

# On the Paradox of the Stone

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## I. Two Versions of the Stone Paradox

Thinkers of the theistic traditions, such as Christianity and Islam, often understand God as *a being who is all-good, all-knowing, and all-powerful*. The Paradox of the Stone is intended to show that the concept of omnipotence is incoherent, and that, accordingly, the existence of God as defined above is logically impossible. So the Paradox of the Stone can be seen as an *a priori* argument against the existence of God.

There are two versions of the stone paradox. The first version is this:

- (1) Either God can create a stone which God cannot lift, or God cannot create such a stone.
- (2) If God can create a stone which God cannot lift, then God is not omnipotent (for God cannot lift the stone in question).
- (3) If God cannot create a stone which God cannot lift, then God is also not omnipotent (for God cannot create the stone in question).

Therefore, (4) God is not omnipotent.

However, the argument continues, God by definition is