

A Logical Analysis of the Stone Paradox with First-Order Logic

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I. Two Proofs against the Notion of Omnipotence, Using the Stone Paradox

Traditionally, God in Christianity is understood as *a being that is all-good, all-knowing, and all-powerful*. Those arguing against the notion of God being all-powerful, or omnipotent, suggest that there is logical contradiction in such a concept of God. Two arguments¹ are provided to support their refutation. Both use the so-called Stone Paradox to show the logical inconsistency of the concept of omnipotence, thereby proving the existence of God as defined above to be logically impossible. Even if God does exist, they contest, he (or she) cannot be omnipotent.

Of these two arguments, the first argument (A) is as follows:

- (1) If X can create a stone which X cannot lift, then X is not omnipotent, because X cannot lift the stone in question.
- (2) If X cannot create a stone which X cannot lift, then X is also not omnipotent, because X cannot create the stone in question.

1 〈全能悖論〉，〈維基百科〉，網絡下載：<http://zh.wikipedia.org/wiki/>。