

Is Everything Pointless Without God?

Ryan Doody

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Theism & Meaning

Distinguish between the following two questions:

1. Is there a God?
2. If there is no God, is everything pointless?

In what ways is God's (possible) existence relevant to the Meaning of Life?

Theism = the claim that there is at least one supernatural being.

If There is No God, Is Everything Pointless?

"[I]f God exists, then there is hope for man. But if God does not exist then all we are left with is despair." [Craig, 46]

WAYS THEISM MIGHT HELP GIVE LIFE MEANING

1. There is a satisfying explanation for the origin and sustenance of the universe.
2. Good will triumph over Evil.
3. God loves and cares about us.
4. There is an answer to the question "Why be moral?"
5. There is Cosmic Justice.
6. Everyone is of equal worth.
7. There is life after death.

Is There a God?

Grant, for the sake of argument, that if God does not exist, then everything is pointless. Does this give us a reason to think that God does in fact exist?

Epistemic Reasons.

An *epistemic reason* to believe that p is a consideration that provides you with evidence that p is true.

Pragmatic Reasons.

A *pragmatic reason* to believe that p is a consideration that provides you with evidence that believing the p will be in your interest.

Do we have epistemic or pragmatic reasons to believe in God?