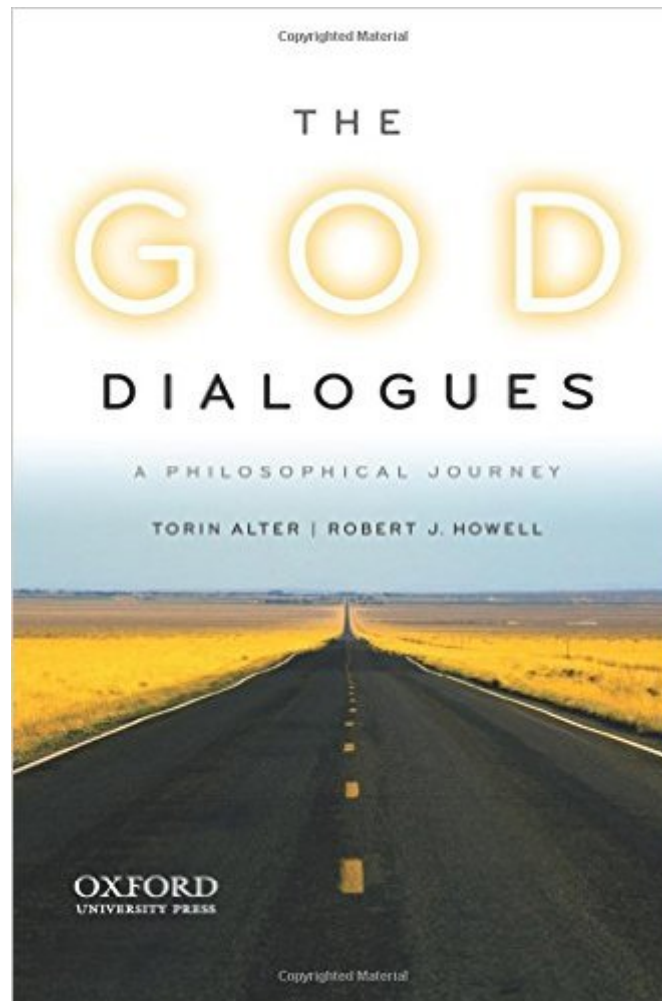


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The God Dialogues: A Philosophical Journey



Synopsis

The God Dialogues is an intriguing and extensive philosophical debate about the existence of God. Engaging and accessible, it covers all the main arguments for and against God's existence, from traditional philosophical "proofs" to arguments that involve the latest developments in biology and physics. Three main characters represent the principal views: Theodore Logan, the theist; Eva Lucien, the atheist; and Gene Sesquois, the agnostic. Their debate takes place during a post-college cross-country road trip during which Gene expresses dismay over his future. He wants to do something meaningful with his life but is at a loss as to how to proceed, despite having just earned a degree in engineering. Gene's quandary precipitates a discussion of the meaning of life and its connection to God's existence. This in turn leads to vigorous debates about morality and theism, evidence for and against God's existence, probability and the rationality of belief, and the relationship between faith and reason. The strongest arguments from all three perspectives are fairly represented. An annotated list of suggested readings directs readers to relevant and helpful primary sources. Assuming no background knowledge, The God Dialogues is ideal for courses in the philosophy of religion, an excellent supplement for introduction to philosophy courses, and a compelling introduction for anyone with an interest in the subject.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I use The God Dialogues in my Introduction to Philosophy course at the University of Southern Miss' (along with Plato's Five Dialogues, Descartes's Meditations, another introductory book on free will, and various other readings). This book is an excellent introduction to the major philosophical

arguments for and against the existence of God. It is perfect for an Introduction to Philosophy course, or as supplementary text for an undergraduate course on Philosophy of Religion, or simply as a fun read for anyone who wants to survey philosophical work on the issue without reading the original texts (which can be tedious, highly technical, and dry). I would even recommend the book for serious philosophy students or professional philosophers (like myself) with little or no background in philosophy of religion. It only took me a few days to read, and I feel that I have gained a good grasp on the basic issues and arguments. The book is written as a series of nine dialogue between three characters--a Christian, an atheist, and an agnostic--taking place during a long road trip. All of the major arguments for and against the existence of God are clearly and fairly explained, assessed and critiqued, including the design argument, the cosmological argument, the ontological argument, the problem of evil, Pascal's wager, and the appeal to religious experience. The authors manage to make the material easy to read without dumbing down the arguments, and they are fair to both sides of the debate. Most of my students, many of whom are typical southern conservative Bible-thumpers, enjoyed (or at least appreciated) the book. The dialogue is sometimes a little stilted and the jokes can be corny.

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