

The Proof by Motion Revisited: Non-Mechanical Causality and the Prime Mover

1. Everything that is in motion must have a cause for its movement.
2. If this cause is conceived as purely mechanical, motion is transmitted from one part to another within a continuous material system.
3. For example, when the string of a bow is released, if the bow is considered as continuous matter, each portion is moved by the body of the bow itself: the movement is transmitted locally, without requiring the intervention of a first principle.
4. Within a strictly mechanical framework, the principle "everything that is moved is moved by another" does not allow one to reach a First Mover. **It is the non-mechanical aspect of forces that makes this upward progression possible and allows one to posit a spiritual Prime Mover as the necessary foundation of motion.**
5. The existence of a non-mechanical aspect of forces is demonstrated by attempting to reconcile **actual causality** and **inertia**. A purely mechanical cause cannot sustain motion continuously and cannot account for inertia; **this leads to positing a non-material causality.**
6. This non-mechanical causality allows one to reach a **spiritual Prime Mover**, the necessary foundation of all movement.
7. The action of the Prime Mover is **immanent in its mode of action**, but the Prime Mover itself is not material and is therefore not immanent in itself: it is contained in no particle.
8. This action has three essential characteristics: **immanent, through interrelation**, and **according to the determination of the elements**. It is this last characteristic that ensures the passage from the spiritual to the physical, as the spiritual action of the Prime Mover is modulated according to the properties of each element.
9. Thus, the action of the Prime Mover makes actual motion possible, preserves the autonomy of the physical world, and allows one to logically trace back to a **spiritual First Mover**, the necessary and founding cause of all movement.