

The EP Conjecture¹

A.D. Hartford (2020)

(1) **Something** and **Nothing** are collectively exhaustive (the only 2 categories) & mutually exclusive: therefore **there must be something or nothing: 1 or the other, not neither, not both.**

(2) **IF there ever is something there must have been at least 1 something with *always* logical status** because you cannot get a basis, a root language/system, without a basis; so, if an original basis is to *ever* exist, that basis must have *always* existed; and where at least 1 basis is necessary for any kind of existence. Something cannot ever exist if it has never existed; therefore anything that exists must have existed at least once: identity is a debt that must be paid by all, and in full. Something cannot be different before it 1st is.

(3) **We exist as at least 1 something.**

(4) **Therefore, there was at least 1 something in the Eternal Past (including a basis).** The Eternal Past is the place of things with always logical status (should any exist). There is nothing before any always something (otherwise such would not *always* exist). Thus, even if there are many always, because none can be before another, they exist at the same one global 0. The Eternal Past (0) is the analytical 1st place across the totality. No always can be a resultant of process, otherwise such would not *always* exist; therefore all always are necessarily un-caused, existing in full @ this 0 (pathless). No paths end in the Eternal Past.

(5) **The 1 Eternal Past couldn't have been different: it must have been 'as is'.** The 1 EP couldn't have been different because there are 0 alternatives (there is nothing before always so there is no *where* for any alternatives **somethings** or **nothings** prior; all things that exist *do*, there are no hidden existors) & there is 0 process/time for change or difference. What's in the Eternal Past exists all together, all at once, and before all time as 1 system. This originality exists "in" and "as" the EP; it *is* the 1st totality. What's in the EP is the only Original Possibility & the EP couldn't have been different; thus, that 1 is the logically Necessary 1st actual. However, the necessity is inherent in its nature, in the nature of always, not by our confirming epistemology.

(6) **The Eternal Future \geq Eternal Past.** The Eternal Future cannot be ontologically less than the Eternal Past because the carryforward of *necessary* prior logical history is a global self-coherence principle across the 1 totality. The Eternal Future thus *includes* the EP (and any after), and thus cannot be ontologically "less than".

(7) **Therefore, there can never have been only Nothing from the Eternal Past** (always; the un-beginning origin; the 1st place) **to the Eternal Future** (forever; the un-ending onwards; the last place) **because there must have been at least 1 something in the Eternal Past;** that's "why".

¹ The argument does not claim that *our* (spatio-temporal) universe is past eternal, and is un-altered whether it is or isn't! This is the a-cosmological argument because any something in any possible world, regardless of their own local cosmology, and even if they were in a simulation, can find this exact same argument. All possible worlds, assuming there be many, share the 1 Eternal Past (common origin). All actual worlds, assuming there be many, diverge after and only after the EP. You do NOT properly think backwards to the Eternal Past, only forwards from the Eternal Past (0), and only once that original identity is 1st established. One of the curious conclusions of this argument is that "for each to themselves": the original identity axiom framework (premises 1 & 2) can be recognized & then postulated *only as a per se* notum input because no paths end in the Eternal Past; *necessarily only by & to oneself*.

As an A-cosmological argument: Any something within the 1 totality can equally recognize

Cosmological Arg

Input: Nothing Comes From **Nothing** [Parmenides] → If ever **something**, then *always* was **something** [insert Aristotle's Causation or Aquinas's Necessary-Contingency Framework]

Ancient Theists: No ∞ regress possible, so the sequacity must terminate with uncaused 1st cause

Modern Rationalists: Infinite series nullify that idea.

EPC: Both are backwards by thinking backwards! You think only *from* the Eternal Past, not *to* the Eternal Past because 0 paths end in the EP & it is 1st. The EP (0) is given logical priority in 1st establishing original footing.

A-Cosmological Arg

Input: If ever **something**, then at least 1 **always something** [always= a special type of something] → There is nothing before **always** (N/other S) → "Nothing Comes From Nothing" [ex-post via impossibility of **Nothing** *via* nature of **always**]

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No **always** can be different (the 1 EP is 'as is')

EPC 1.0: *Always* arises as an analytical condition: because you cannot get a **system** without a **system**; so, if you *ever* have an original **system** (a "basis"), that **system** *always* existed. *Always* is a special kind of **something** (existing in full without original process).

EPC 2.0: *Always* is a place (the one 1st place, the global 0) & this 1 EPast couldn't have been different.

As an Ontological Argument: 1 Original Possibility as the only 1st "where" & only 1st "what"

The Nature of Always: The Eternal Past

No where for alternative S's or N's prior

Intuition 2: the condition of always as 0 right arrow (→) aka pathless; not resultant original process.

Any always is necessarily un-caused ('A' existing in full as is) rather than self-caused (A → A) or emergent (_ → A) because there is 0 time or process before or within the Eternal Past. No paths end in the Eternal Past (otherwise, such would not *always* exist).

0

Crucially: Even if many always somethings, because none can be before another (re: the nature of always), they all line up on the same 0.

← There is nothing before **always**!

Intuition 1: the condition of always like a left arrow. There is nothing before always (i.e. no other **somethings**, or the alternative, **nothing**). Otherwise, such would not *always* exist.

→ **The Eternal Past is the 1st place: the one global 0 across the totality. (Common Origin)**