









Traditional Approaches: (Augustinian)

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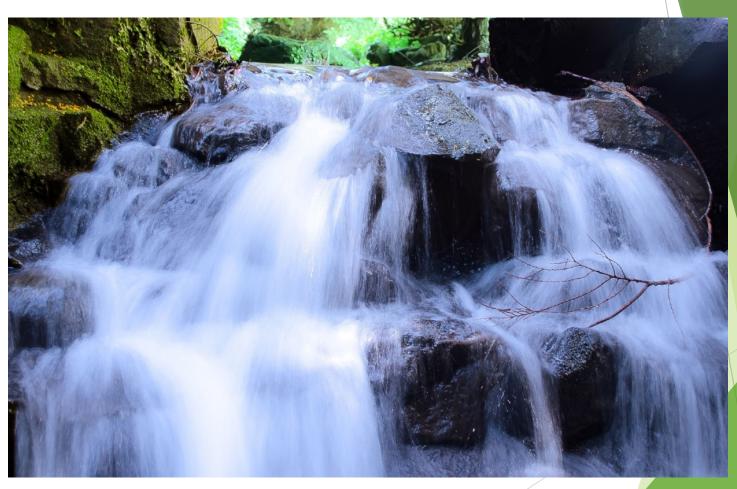
Augustine Reconsidering "Evil"

- Privation of the good (privatio boni)
- Free will defense
- Principle of plenitude
- Aesthetic argument
- Teleological resolution

I. Evil as Privation of the Good: privatio boni

- Manichaean Dualism
 - Ultimacy, Goodness and Evil
- ► Neo-Platonism, Plotinus
 - **►** Emanation
 - creatio ex nihilo
 - The privative, parasitic, "existence" of evil

Creation as God's superabundant goodness overflowing



II The Free Will Defense

"An evil will is the cause of all evils"
Augustine, *Enchiridion*, viii.23

Efficient cause vs. deficient cause

"God judged it better to bring good out of evil than to suffer no evil to exist."

Augustine On the Free Choice of the Will, III.ix.26

III. The Principle of Plenitude

God's superabundant goodness gives off being as the sun radiates light



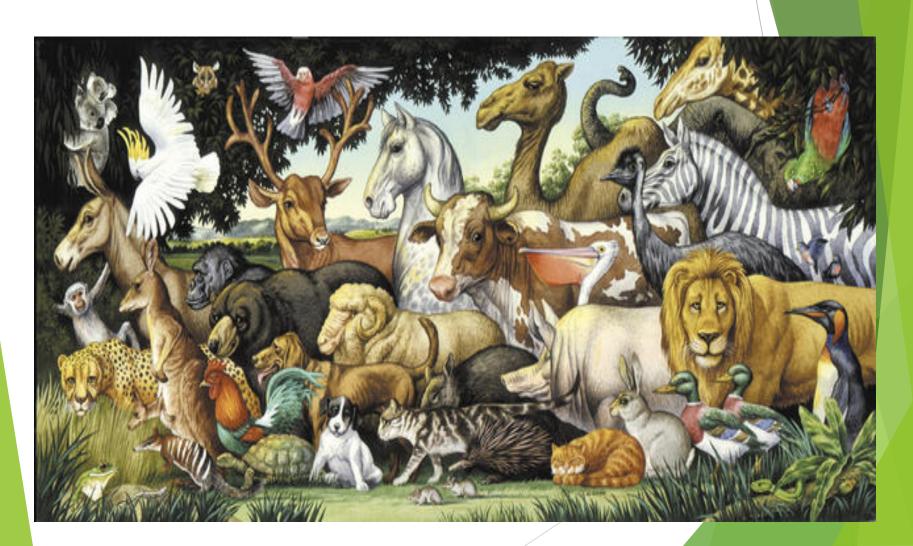
With plenitude...



...there is risk of conflict.



The best kind of world includes all kinds of creatures



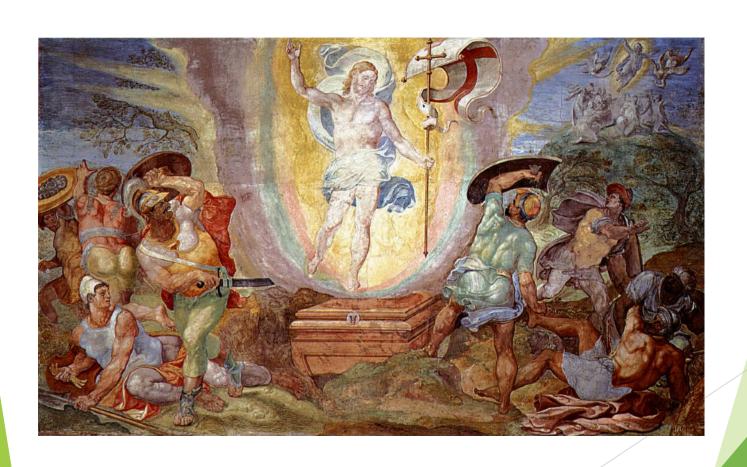
The Harp with Many Strings



IV. The Aesthetic Theme

- ► God as artist
- ► God as poet

ART: Sistine Chapel Depiction of the Resurrection



POETRY: "Nothing Gold Can Stay Robert Frost

- Nature's first green is gold,
- Her hardest hue to hold.
- Her early leaf's a flower;
- But only so an hour.
- Then leaf subsides to leaf.
- So Eden sank to grief,
- So dawn goes down to day.
- Nothing gold can stay.

V. Eschatological Resolution: All Will Be Well

- "All shall be well, and all shall be well and all manner of thing shall be well."
 - Julian of Norwich
- Evil will not have the last word
- Evil will be finally and fully overcome
- In fact, in Christ, it is already defeated and there only remains a "dangerous semblance of evil" (Barth)

