



The Argument from Reason and Rational Agents

An Exploration in Rationality, Freedom, and Theism

Edited by Timothy A. Stratton and Joshua R. Farris

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Challenges naturalism by defending rational agency, freedom, and theism, while engaging contemporary issues such as AI, consciousness, and transhumanism

The Argument from Reason and Rational Agents explores the Argument from Reason, a powerful critique of naturalism that insists rational thought cannot be reduced to physical causes. Written at a mid-level, this co-authored volume bridges scholarly rigor and accessibility, making it suitable for classrooms and public readers alike. The book builds on the work of Charles Taliaferro, Stewart Goetz, and J.P. Moreland, while extending the discussion into contemporary territory: the rise of AI, digital cognition, panpsychism, cosmopsychism, and transhumanism. The authors argue that rational agency remains essential and uniquely human, grounded in consciousness and the irreducible nature of inference, freedom, and moral responsibility. At stake is nothing less than the meaning of human dignity, the viability of rational religion, and the coherence of our moral and intellectual lives.

Readership

Advanced undergraduates, graduate students, and scholars in philosophy, theology, and science–religion, along with thoughtful general readers interested in mind, freedom, and theism.

Key selling points

- Provides a fresh, mid-level treatment of the Argument from Reason, accessible for classrooms and public readers.
- Expands the debate by engaging contemporary figures such as Philip Goff, Bernardo Kastrup, and Graham Oppy.
- Applies the argument to urgent cultural issues, including AI, chatbots, and transhumanism.
- Defends rationality as foundational for human dignity, moral responsibility, and religious belief.

About the Author(s) / Editor(s)

Joshua R. Farris is a philosopher and theologian specializing in philosophy of mind, theological anthropology, and the intersection of science and religion.

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