

God's Attributes

Claims about God

- (1) God's existence (*that* God is)
- (2) God's nature (*what* God is)

Which is prior?

Thomas Aquinas's *Summa Theologia*

The *Summa Theologia*, an unfinished work, is arranged into **three parts**:

Part One (articles 1-119)

A: On those things which pertain to the essence of God.

B: On the distinction of persons in God.

C: On the production of creatures by God and on the creatures produced.

Part Two (One): On God as the end of man, and on human acts in general.

Part Two (Two): On human acts in particular.

Part Three: On Christ and the benefits he confers on humans

A: On the incarnation, and on what Christ did and suffered.

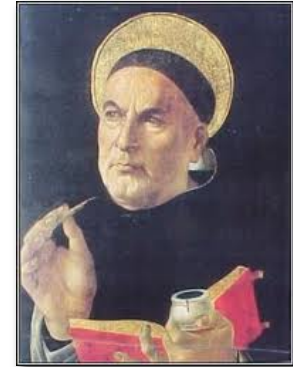
B: On the sacraments

C: On eternal life. (It stops with the 90th question of the third part.)

Rationalism vs Voluntarism

Theological Rationalists

(Conceptualists) Emphasize God's intellect over God's will. God's will is constrained by God's conception of the good.



Thomas Aquinas
(1225-1274)

Theological Voluntarists

Emphasize God's will, and in particular God's ability to do anything. God's will is not constrained by God's intellect.



William of Ockham
(1285-1387)

Thomas Aquinas's *Summa Theologia*

Each of the three **Parts** is divided into **Treatises** (e.g., “On Creation,” “On Man,” “On Law”), which are divided into numbered **Questions** (e.g., “The Existence of God,” “Of the Simplicity of God”), which are divided into numbered **Articles** (e.g., “Whether the existence of God is self-evident?”, “Whether God exists?”) which are the basic units in the work. These articles have the following sections:

- (1) **Statement of the question** (Whether..., *Utrum*),
- (2) **Objections** (It seems that...; *Oportet*) in which arguments for the opposite answer are given,
- (3) **Aquinas' own position** (On the contrary...; *Sed contra*).
- (4) **Aquinas' argument(s) for his position** (I answer that...; *Respondeo dicens*)
- (5) **Replies to the objections.** Here Aquinas shows where the objections go wrong, and sifts out any truth they might contain.

God and Stones

- (1) Either God **can** create a stone he cannot lift or he **cannot**.
 - (2) If he **can**, there is something that he cannot do (viz. lift the stone).
 - (3) If he **cannot**, there is something he cannot do (viz. create the stone).
 - (4) If there is something God cannot do, it follows that he is not omnipotent.
- Thus (5) God is not omnipotent.

Modality

Modality refers to the quality of being:

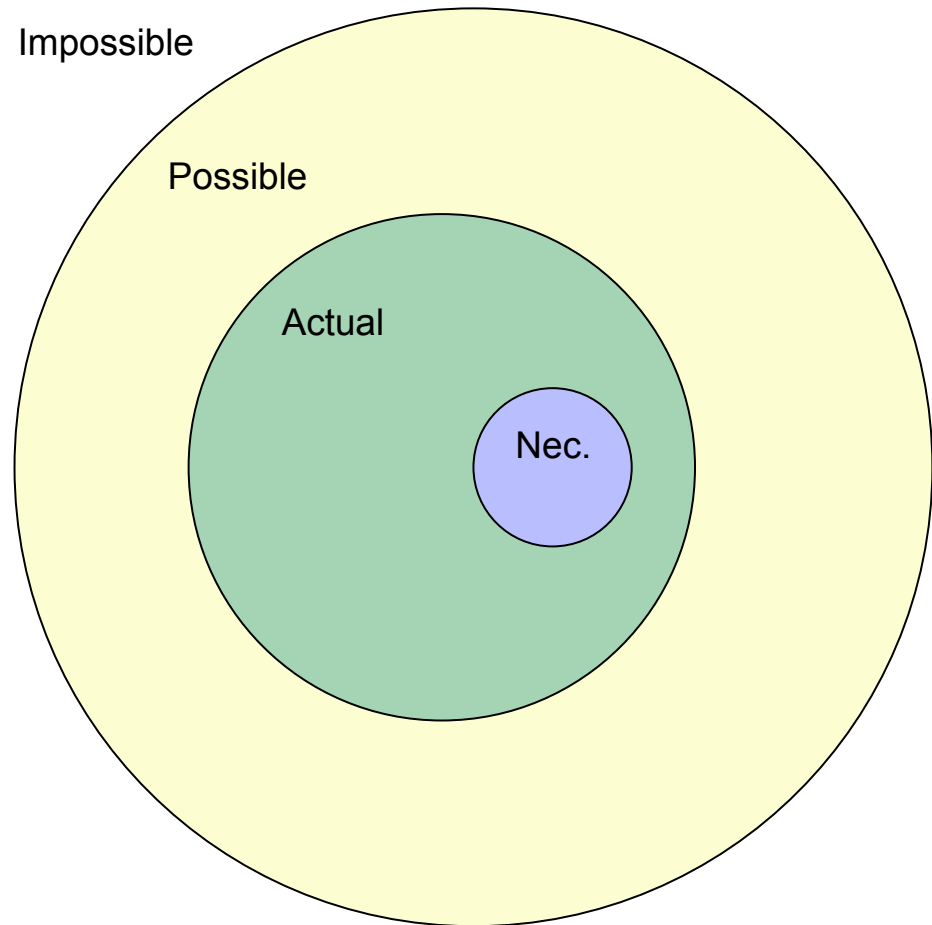
- Necessary,
- Actual, or
- Possible.

Also included are the :

- Non-actual (= possible, but not actual)
- Contingent (= possible, but not necessary)
- Impossible

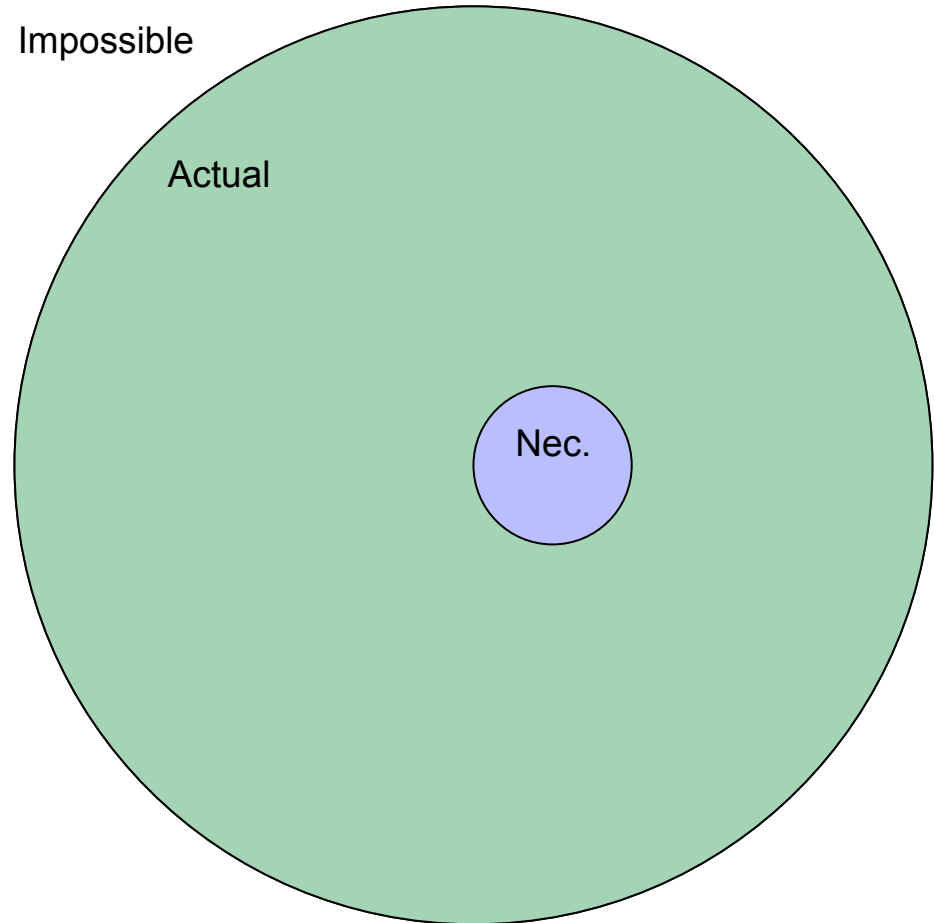
Modality

- Necessary,
- Actual, or
- Possible.
- Non-necessary
- Non-actual
(= possible,
but not actual)
- Contingent (= possible, but not necessary)
- Impossible



Modality

What if the
actual and the
possible were
the same?



Modality

Would this mean
that everything
that did exist, had
to exist — that is,
that everything
that is, is
necessary?

