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Introduction to Philosophy

Reading Questions for November 7

These questions cover excerpts from a book by Thomas Aquinas called *Summa Theologica.* The answers do not have to be turned in. You will probably have to do the reading more than once to get the answers.

Background:

> This excerpt comes from a section in which Thomas Aquinas offers five proofs of the existence of God. These proofs are sometimes known as the "Five Ways." This is the second proof. It talks about efficient causes. Here's a definition of "efficient cause" from `http://www.diclib.com/cgi-bin/d1.cgi?l=en&base=coed&page=showid&id=24801`: "an agent that brings a thing into being or initiates a change."

Questions:

1. Reconstruct Aquinas's argument. Is it sound?