

Kant Study Guide V

The Antinomies

Reading: 141-145

Notes:

- The *Conditioned*: this refers to that which we understand to be delimited or identified, somehow. E.g., we understand some thing to be delimited by the concept of redness, others by triangularity. Spatial shape is an even more general “condition” that things satisfy, as we think of them.
- The *Unconditioned*: a totality extrapolated from the requirements of understanding a thing to be conditioned. For example: the present moment is conditioned by the totality of past moments.
- *Cosmological Idea*: the result of extending to the world as a whole the Categories of reason.

Central Question: What is Kant’s argument for the truth of Transcendental Idealism?

Subsidiary Questions:

1. Why, according to Kant, does reason “demand totality” of the “unconditioned.” What does this mean, exactly? (A409/B436)
2. What is the result, according to Kant, of extending reason beyond the possible bounds of experience? (A421/B449)
3. What is an “antinomy of pure reason”? (A421/B449)
4. Why are the antinomies of reason unavoidable, even if, ultimately, innocuous? (A422/B450)
5. What are the thesis and antithesis of the first antinomy? (A426-427/B454-455)
6. By what arguments does Kant attempt to show that the spatial and temporal delimitation of the world is an antinomy of pure reason? Are these arguments sound? (A426-429/B454-457)
7. What is Kant thereby trying to say here about the application of the ideas of space and time to the world as a whole? Does it make sense, on his view, to think of the world as a giant space & time order?