

Divine Action, Ontological Dependence, and Truthmaking

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This paper presents a divine action account of both *ontological dependence* and *truthmaking*. In particular, it presents the necessary and jointly sufficient, ontological dependence conditions of contingent objects and laws of nature, which conceptually coheres and is logically consistent with a theory of truth and truthmaking for propositions regarding such entities and laws. Such a dual account is metaphysically foundationalist, given that all things are grounded ultimately in what it assumes is the fundamental existent. In **section one**, in light of recent literature on the subjects, four conditions are described that must be satisfied in order for any such dual account to be considered successful. They are (1) to indicate what the *relata* are, (2) to say what the *relations* are, and (3) to do both by reference to one ontology. In addition, since the *ontological dependence* relation differs from the *truthmaking* relation, (4) one problem unique to each is described.

In part one of **section two** it is suggested that God's existence-conferring action can satisfy the role of an *immediate*, though not *ultimate* ontological *ground* upon which all other things are ontologically dependent. Then, in part two of section two, a five-category ontology is presented from which the ultimate ground is identified. By reference to this ontology (and in terms of which) analyses of both *ontological dependence* and *truthmaking* are developed in part three of the second section and applied to a particular physical system and to a particular law of nature, *Pauli's Exclusion Principle*. Understood, not only as a law of co-existence statement, but also a negative existential proposition (which makes trouble for most theories of truthmaking), it states that two or more identical fermions cannot occupy the same quantum state within a quantum system simultaneously.

Section three summarizes how the four conditions are satisfied by this divine action account.