

The Necessity of Divine Hiddenness

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What is the traditional argument for Divine Hiddenness?

1. If God exists then God would not be hidden from us.
2. God is hidden from us.

3. Therefore, God does not exist

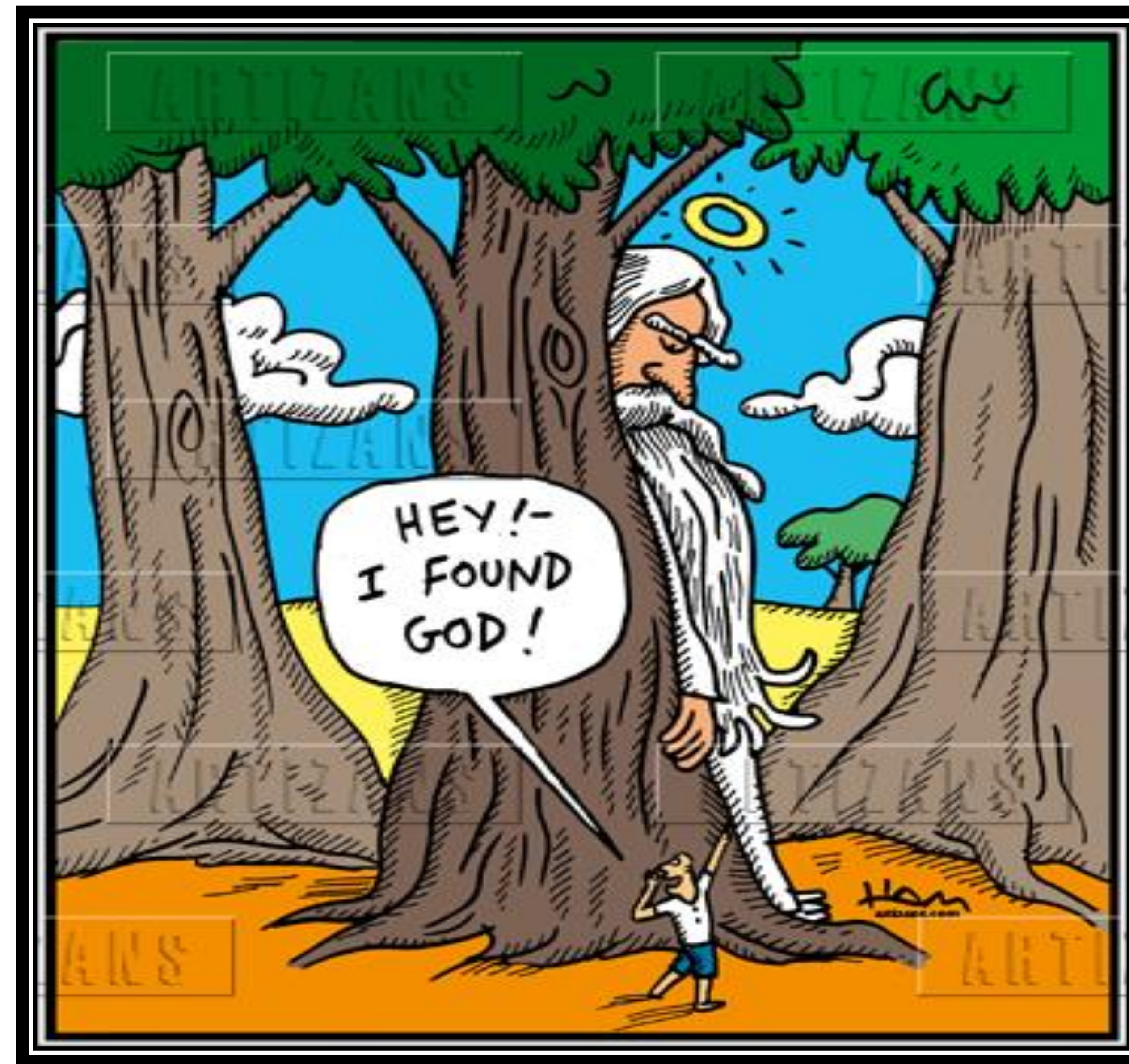
Objection #1

1. Only existing things can be hidden.
2. God is hidden

3. Therefore, God exists

Objection #2

- Premise (1) is false
- It is for our benefit - and perhaps God's favored way of interaction.
- God's being hidden is necessary for our *freedom* and *integrity*.
- A genuinely loving response to God is precluded by God fully disclosing himself.
- God being hidden helps cultivate a number of virtues in us.



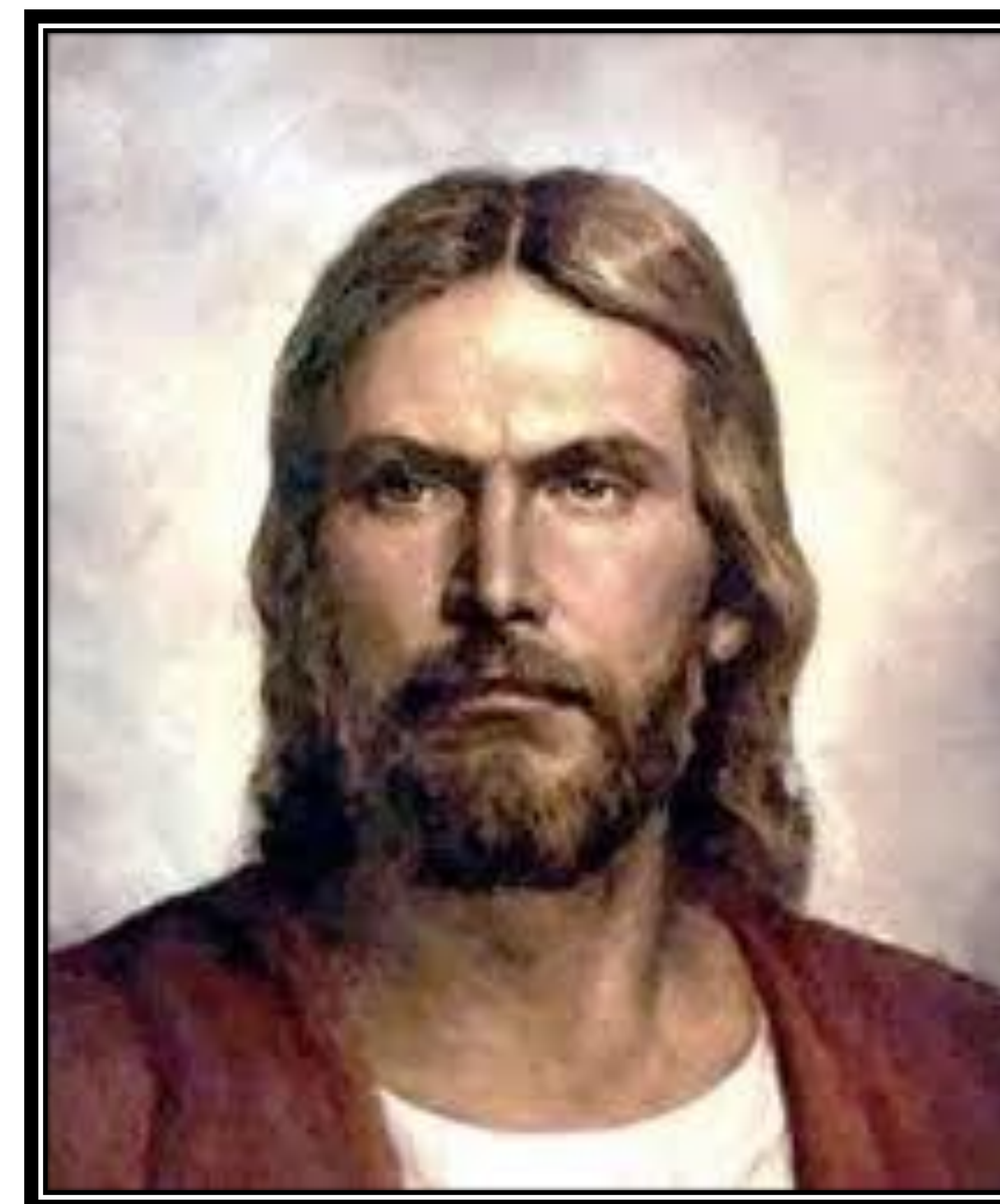
What are the characteristics that God must possess?

- There are a number of attributes that a being must possess in order to sufficiently be considered "God". We will be focusing on the three attributes that are the most relevant to the issue of remaining divinely hidden.
- God must possess...
 1. Omnibenevolence
 2. Omniscience
 3. Omnipotence

The Argument for the Necessity of Divine Hiddenness

1. If God is omnibenevolent then he remains divinely hidden by virtue of being omnibenevolent.
2. God is omnibenevolent by virtue of being God.

3. Therefore, God remains divinely hidden.



Defending (1)

- By virtue of being omnibenevolent, God would not put himself in a position to coerce his creation. If God revealed himself every time to those who cry out, then he would not allow them the opportunity to cultivate their virtues and reach their fullest potential/ flourish.
- If God revealed himself to his creation every time they called out to him, he would risk becoming subservient to their every whim, thus making him no longer omnipotent. If God were no longer omnipotent then he would no longer meet the conditions necessary to sufficiently be considered God.