

Euthyphro's Initial Argument

P1. It is pious to prosecute one's murderous father.

P2. It is right to do what is pious.

C. It is right to prosecute one's murderous father.

Is this argument persuasive?

EUTHYPHRO'S FIRST SUGGESTION:

What is dear to the gods is pious, and
what is not is impious. 7a (p. 8)

SOCRATES' RESPONSE:

P1 The pious is that which is loved by the gods. 7a

P2 The pious is the opposite of the impious. 7a

P3 The gods disagree with one another about what
is just, beautiful, and good. 7e

P4 What that some gods love, other gods hate. 8a

P5 The pious is the same as the impious. 8a
(follows from P1 and P4)

CONTRADICTION (from P5 and P2)

C The pious is *not* that which is loved by the gods.
(by *reductio ad absurdum*)

EUTHYPHRO'S SECOND SUGGESTION:

What *all* the gods love is pious, and
what *all* the gods love is impious. 9d
(p. 11)

SOCRATES RESPONSE:

Is the pious being loved by the gods
because it is pious, or is it pious because
it is being loved by the gods? 10a

What is Socrates' point here?