

**Kant's Critical Attitude Towards  
*The Only Possible Argument***

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**(Abstract)**

A great deal of attention has been paid to Kant's claim in the *Critique of Pure Reason* that all theoretical attempts to demonstrate the existence of God must necessarily end in failure. What has received considerably less attention is the fact that throughout his pre-Critical period, i.e., the period prior to the 1781 publication of the *Critique of Pure Reason*, Kant develops a unique argument in support of the possibility of such a demonstration. It is obvious that the Critical Kant can no longer maintain the validity of the argument which he presents in *The Only Possible Argument in Support of a Demonstration of the Existence of God* (1763); however, it is not obvious exactly how Kant proves that this argument cannot succeed. This thesis is concerned with providing an explanation of the change in Kant's view concerning the possibility of providing a theoretical demonstration of the existence of God.