

Abstract: Evil, Negative Being, and Truthmakers

Abstract: According to the privation theory of evil, held by the Scholastic philosophers, all evil is the privation of goodness. Privations are a special kind of negative being, but like all negative beings they are subject to the question of whether they can act as truthmakers for negative – in this case privative – truths. The answer for privations, then, depends on the correct view of truthmakers for negative truths in general. I argue against the claim that negative truths can have negative beings as truthmakers, and in favour of an exclusion account of negative truth. I use this as the launchpad for my Scholastic-style defence of the position that privative truths can only have positive or real beings as truthmakers. I thereby give privations their special ontological due while at the same time embedding them within a broader theory of negative being.