

Under the Idea of Infinity: Descartes and Spinoza

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In this talk, it is suggested that in the *Ethics* Spinoza does not so much try to prove the existence of the absolute Infinite. Rather, he wants to give an existential definition of the absolute Infinite where an existential definition presupposes the existence of the thing defined. Another aim of the talk is to give reasons why Spinoza defines the absolute Infinite the way he does. The existential definition of the absolute Infinite shows, among other things, that the **way** the absolute Infinite exists is that of necessary existence. In the course of the talk, Spinoza's thinking of the Infinite is compared to that of Descartes.