For every fact, there is a reason why it is as it is and not some other way.

It is a fact that contingent beings exist.

Thus, for any particular contingent being, there is a reason why it is the way it is and not some other way.

The explanation for any particular contingent being must be found in something other than itself (by definition of contingency).

To explain this contingent being, I can either appeal to a set of causes that contains only other contingent beings, or I can appeal to a set of causes that contains a necessary being.

Appealing to a set of causes that contains only other contingent beings may be able to explain the majority of contingent facts, but leaves one primary fact unexplained. This mode of explanation cannot explain the general fact that contingent beings exist at all. That is, it cannot explain why there is something rather than nothing.

The only way to provide a reason for the fact that contingent beings exist at all is by appeal to something outside of the set of contingent things, something which is itself not contingent

Therefore, a necessary being must exist, and this is God.
The core logic of Aquinas’ proof:

P₁ Either a necessary being exists, or the universe is meaningless – that is, there is no reason why the universe is, or is the way that it is. It is a brute, unexplainable fact.

P₂ The universe is not a brute, unexplainable fact.

C Therefore, a necessary being exists.

The REAL core logic of Aquinas’ proof:

P₁ Either a necessary being exists, or the universe is meaningless – that is, there is no reason why the universe is, or is the way that it is. It is a brute, unexplainable fact.

P₁.5 God exists.

P₂ The universe is not a brute, unexplainable fact.

C Therefore, a necessary being exists.

The logic of the nihilist:

P₁ Either a necessary being exists, or the universe is meaningless – that is, there is no reason why the universe is, or is the way that it is. It is a brute, unexplainable fact.

P₂ The universe is a brute, unexplainable fact.

C Therefore, no necessary being exists.

The REAL logic of the nihilist:

P₁ Either a necessary being exists, or the universe is meaningless – that is, there is no reason why the universe is, or is the way that it is. It is a brute, unexplainable fact.

P₁.5 God does not exist.

P₂ The universe is a brute, unexplainable fact.

C Therefore, no necessary being exists.