ASI PACKET

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What is the actual question?

What, if anything, ultimately grounds Truth, Reason and Goodness?

Greater intelligence can expose a weak rule. Greater ability alone does not establish what is true or worth pursuing.

FIX THE MEANING

Ground • What makes a claim true or a reason binding.
Ultimate ground • Where the explanation ends, and why that stopping point is warranted.
Anchor • The proposed actual ground to which understanding remains answerable.
Shape • Requirements justified for identifying that ground.

Recognition asks how we know. Implementation asks how we act.

INVARIANT THROUGH CHANGE

An invariant is not what repeats. It is what remains answerable through change.
Recover the relation, its required conditions and supporting reasons.
Actual permission cannot be replaced by predicted agreement. This distinction alone does not establish an ultimate ground or goodness.

GATE 0 • ARE WE ANSWERING THE GROUNDING QUESTION?

SUPPORTED	REJECTED	UNRESOLVED
Proceed to G1–G2.	State your different question. Keep its answer distinct.	Clarify ground, recognition and implementation.

THE ROUTE

02	**G1–G2** • Reasons and personal standing
03	**G3–G4** • Compare grounds; justify requirements
04	**Your Shape; G5** • The historical bridge
05	**G6–G8** • Sources → events → identity
06	**G9–G10** • Whole case → warrant → your finding

HOW TO USE EACH GATE

Judge the stated claim and give reasons.
Supported: carry the finding with its limits.
Rejected: remove claims that require it.
Unresolved: keep dependent conclusions conditional.
Record reasons and dependencies. Following the route does not establish a verdict.

NO PRIOR BOOK REQUIRED • PART TWO FOLLOWS YOUR FINDING

Which premises can you defend?

G1 · REASONS FOR BELIEF

Claim: reasons can justify belief beyond an agent's preference.

An argument asks that its premises count in favor of its conclusion.
Does denying all such authority rely on that authority?
Specify any contradiction.
A standard's existence, objectivity and ultimate explanation are distinct claims.

SUPPORTED	REJECTED	UNRESOLVED
Carry the warranted scope to G3.	Defend an alternative account of justification; revise dependent claims.	Isolate the disputed premise or inference.

G2 · PERSONAL STANDING

Claim: persons have standing beyond usefulness or power.

Consider a case where protecting someone's actual good costs reward or advantage. What makes their claim binding?
Defend the moral premise. Intuition or agreement alone does not settle it.
Reasons for belief do not by themselves establish moral obligation.

SUPPORTED	REJECTED	UNRESOLVED
Carry the defended moral premise to G3.	State the rival account of standing and its consequences.	Identify the missing argument about obligation.

RECORD WHAT FOLLOWS

My supported premises are... because...
My rejected premises are... because...
My unresolved questions are...

G1 and G2 require distinct arguments.
A verdict at one does not automatically settle the other.

NEXT · 03 · COMPARE GROUNDS AND JUSTIFY REQUIREMENTS

What could ground the whole?

G3 • TEST ULTIMATE ACCOUNTS

Compare fundamental truths or norms; natural, relational or procedural grounds; a necessary rational personal Ground; other defended accounts.

What explains existence, intelligibility, reasons and standing?

Assess every account against your defended premises. Explain the authority of reasons and personal standing within their warranted scope, and examine the strongest objections.

For a personal Ground, test necessity and goodness, including suffering and hiddenness. An unexplained stopping point is not automatically a contradiction.

SUPPORTED
Carry the account to G4 with its premises and limits.

REJECTED
Remove the refuted account; compare remaining accounts.

UNRESOLVED
Identify an argument or evidence that could distinguish them.

G4 • JUSTIFY EACH REQUIRED FEATURE

For each feature: accepted premises → inference → required feature.

Does your argument warrant self-existence, personality or goodness?

Would accessibility or self-giving follow, aid recognition, or remain unjustified? Consider other features you can defend.

Distinguish necessary properties, preferred features and clues for recognition.

SUPPORTED
Include the feature with its argument in your Shape.

REJECTED
Remove that requirement; revise the affected comparisons.

UNRESOLVED
Keep it conditional. Do not exclude candidates solely on it.

THE REQUIREMENTS MUST EARN THEIR PLACE

Apply comparable standards, including limits on what can be known.
Distinguish compatibility, an answered objection and independent support.
Explain how each changes confidence; count no support twice.
Supported features still need an argument that one actual ground has them together.



What Shape have you established?

YOUR FIRST DECLARATION

The Shape I can presently defend is… _____

Each required feature follows because… _____

The premises I reject or leave open are… _____

If no Shape is justified, state the exact obstacle. _____

G5 · CAN THIS GROUND BE IDENTIFIED IN A LIFE?

Claim: the ground I defended could be identified with a historical life.
A personal ground alone does not identify a historical person.
Distinguish possibility, reasons to expect disclosure and evidence it occurred.
A contingent disclosure can be investigated without proving it had to occur. Explain what your account permits.

SUPPORTED

Investigate possible candidates at G6.

REJECTED

Report the grounding finding at G9 without a historical identification.

UNRESOLVED

Explore candidates conditionally; keep G5 open.

SPECIFY THE ROLE BEFORE CHOOSING A NAME

Moral example	A life that acts in accordance with the good.
Representative	A life authorized to speak or act for the ground.
Disclosure	A life through which the ground becomes known.
Identity	Specify precisely who this life is claimed to be, and its relation to the Ground.

Which claims does your Shape permit? What evidence would distinguish them?

SEARCH BY THE REQUIREMENTS

Examine plausible candidates and serious rivals. State which lives and sources you examine.
Recognition may precede a fully stated Shape. If a life changes your criteria, justify the change without assuming its identity, and apply the revised criteria to rivals.

What does the evidence warrant?

Repeat these gates for each candidate.
Preserve the status of earlier premises.

G6 • TEST THE SOURCE CLAIM

Test records for date, authorship, purpose, transmission and dependence.
For self-claims, distinguish accurate reporting from interpretation or distortion.
Separate what is reported from what is established.

SUPPORTED	REJECTED	UNRESOLVED
Carry only warranted findings to G7.	Drop the rejected assertion; preserve other findings.	Inspect the disputed source or inference.

G7 • TEST THE EVENT EXPLANATION

Compare ordinary, extraordinary and combined explanations of identity-bearing events.
State background assumptions. Would comparable evidence support a rival's event?
Justify relevant differences.

SUPPORTED	REJECTED	UNRESOLVED
Carry the explanation and its limits to G8.	Remove that explanation; compare surviving alternatives.	Seek evidence that distinguishes the accounts.

G8 • TEST THE IDENTITY INFERENCE

State the exact identity and relation to the Ground. What would an event, if supported, establish?
Compare example, representative, disclosure and identity. For self-claims, weigh deception, sincere error and truth. Explain what the evidence distinguishes and what remains open.

SUPPORTED	REJECTED	UNRESOLVED
Take the supported identity claim to G9.	Reject that identity claim; retain warranted facts about the life.	Name the missing bridge. Keep the identity conditional.

CARRY EVIDENCE FORWARD WITH ITS DEPENDENCIES

Preserve supported findings. Neither a profile's fit nor dependent reports supply independent testimony. Count each contribution once.

NEXT • 06 • COMPARE THE WHOLE CASE AND DECLARE YOUR FINDING

What conclusion can you defend?

Your premises, Shape and findings must earn their support. If these gates favor a verdict without reasons, identify where and why.

G9 • DOES THE WHOLE CASE HOLD?

Test grounding, Shape, evidence and identity together. Compare the strongest rivals. Trace dependencies. Do not count shared evidence or structural fit twice.

SUPPORTED	REJECTED	UNRESOLVED
Rank the supported accounts; proceed to G10.	Withdraw the failed inference; revise dependent claims.	Locate the weakest bridge and investigate it.

G10 • DOES THE CONFIDENCE CLAIM HOLD?

A leading candidate can still be weakly supported.
State your threshold. “Beyond reasonable doubt” requires reasons for judging remaining doubts insufficient.

SUPPORTED	REJECTED	UNRESOLVED
State the warranted confidence and its reasons.	Lower confidence; the comparative ranking may remain.	Withhold the stronger claim; name what is missing.

YOUR HISTORICAL FINDING

Which life in all of human history best fits your Shape?

My leading candidate or tied candidates, reasons and search limits are…
The fit to my defended requirements is… because…
My confidence and remaining doubts are…
Distinguish no qualifying candidate from no justified ranking. Identify any tie, missing evidence, or blocking gate. If G5 rules out historical identification, state that finding and its reasons.

REOPEN THE AFFECTED GATE

Premise or ground	→	G1–G3
Shape or historical bridge	→	G4–G5
Source, event or identity	→	G6–G8
Rival comparison or confidence	→	G9–G10

Explain each revision. Reassess dependent claims; retain findings that still hold.