

# Personal Identity and the Survival of Death



**THE PRINCE AND THE COBBLER**  
**JOHN LOCKE**

# Semantics



- Locke makes a fundamental distinction between the terms “man” and “person.”
- “Man” refers solely to the physical body.
- “Person” refers to a human being coupled with a soul.
- “Personal identity” extends beyond the body and the soul individually.

# Problems with Theories of the Body and of the Soul



## Soul Theory

- Expresses clear disconnect between body and soul.
- This means the host of the soul is inconsequential to the character of the soul.

## Body Theory

- Assumes personal identity were based solely on the body.
- Why should we not refer to a carcass as a person then?

# The Consciousness Theory



- Awareness of self is a natural part of intelligent thought.
- This includes awareness of one's past and present actions and experiences.
- Personal identity comes from the ability of an individual to distinguish themselves from other beings.



# The Prince and the Cobbler



- If just the soul of the prince were to replace the soul of the cobbler, the person would continue to act as a cobbler.
- If the soul and the consciousness were to reside in the cobbler, the fact that he was a different person would be apparent.

# Further Thought Experiments



- Gaps in consciousness such as sleep and forgetfulness occur naturally.
- “... whatever has the consciousness of present and past actions, is the same person to whom they both belong.”
- Two bodies with the same immaterial spirit.
- One body inhabited by multiple immaterial spirits.