

Cartesian Dualism

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Second Meditation

- Supposes memory tells him lies
 - Has no senses. Body, shape, extension, movement and place are chimeras. Remains: nothing is certain
- If there are no senses or anything in the world do I therefore not exist?
 - If I can convince myself of something then I certainly exist
 - I am I exist is necessarily true whenever it is put forward by me or conceived in my mind



Soul vs. Body

- Soul: I imagined it to be something tenuous, like wind or fire or ether, which permeated my more solid parts
 - Thought: this alone is inseparable from me. I am, I exist—that is certain for as long as I am thinking.
- Body: By a body I understand whatever has a determinable shape and a definable location and can occupy a space in such a way as to exclude any other body
 - We know what wax is no matter what color shape or form it has based the thought which comes to mind.
 - We get things from the senses wrong all the time

Meditation 6

- Imagination vs. pure understanding:
 - “So the difference between this mode of thinking and pure understanding may simply be this: when the mind understands, it in some way turns towards itself and inspects one of the ideas which are within it; but when it imagines, it turns towards the body and looks at something in the body which conforms to an idea understood by the mind or perceived by the senses.” (6th meditation pg. 51)
- Can not avoid having sensory awareness of an object when it is present
- Sensory experiences came first then came reasoning
- Ideas formed by self less vivid than those from sensory ideas → I had nothing at all in the intellect which I had not previously had in sensation

Doubts

- Towers which look round from a distance can appear square from close up. Enormous statues standing on their pediments did not seem large when observed from the ground.
- Every sensory experience have ever thought was having while awake can also think of as having while asleep. → Did not see why should be any more inclined to believe this of what I think I perceived while awake
- Saw nothing to rule out the possibility that my natural constitution made me prone to error even in matters, which seemed to me most true.

Known

- Everything, which I clearly and distinctly understand, is capable of being created by God so as to correspond exactly with my understanding of it.
- Everything I can understand can be created by God
- Even though the brain and the mind are connected they can be separated by God at least

Pain

- “There is nothing that my own nature teaches me more vividly than that I have a body, and that when I feel pain there is something wrong with the body, and that when I am hungry or thirsty the body needs food and drink, and so on.”
- The body is a kind of machine with bones, muscles, veins blood and skin in such a way that, even if there were no mind in it, it would still perform all the same movements in those cases where movement is not under the control of the will or, consequently, of the mind.
- If a foot or arm is cut off nothing is taken away from the mind → the mind is completely different from the body