

Dualism

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What is dualism?

- Dualism is a metaphysical thesis
 - It states that there are two underlying principles to explain the reality as a whole and as such
- For instance, *Mind* and *matter* are regarded as two **substances**
 - Substance Dualism

Substance Dualism

- Rene Descartes substance is something that necessarily exists and its existence must have these features
 - Simple
 - Clear
 - Distinct

How do we have the knowledge of substance?

- Descartes epistemological concern
- Knowledge
 - certain and indubitable
 - Descartes introduced the **method of doubt**

Cartesian Skepticism

- Descartes in Meditations on first philosophy discusses about the certainty of the external world.
- Does the external world exist?
- What kind of belief it is?
- Is it the case that nothing is real?

Hypothesis

- Dream hypothesis
- Demon hypothesis
- Descartes writes,
 - “how often, asleep at night, am I convinced of such familiar events... that I am here in my dressing-gown, sitting by fire,when in fact I am lying undressed in bed.”

Dream hypothesis

- It is hard to distinguish the real experience from the unreal experience
- What I am really doing now ...might not be really doing...

Demon hypothesis

- “Is there a deceiver, simply powerful and cunning, whose aim is to see that I am always deceived...”
- Fantasy and illusion
- Sense experiences do not always give right knowledge
 - Illusions and hallucinations

Rationalist Epistemology

- Reason can give us highest and pure knowledge
- Certainty is based on reason rather than pure experience
- Descartes does not contend that pre-theoretical beliefs are not true...e.g. the body
- He talks about the innate ideas as well.

Methodological Skepticism

- Descartes felt that it is epistemologically necessary to doubt everything in order to examine their certainty.
 - to get clear and distinct knowledge
- Universal doubt
 - Sense experience, reasoning, testimony, etc.

Epistemological priority

- Descartes skepticism had an end
 - Certainty and clarity
 - The body, the soul and the God.
- Descartes was interested to know the **ground of these knowledge**

Three important questions:

- Who is the author of my thoughts?
- Is there a God who puts thoughts into me?
- Am I so bound by my body and to sense that I cannot exist without them?

Can doubt be doubted?

- What sort of activity doubting is?
- Does it not differ from walking?
- ***Ambulo ergo sum*** – I walk therefore I am
- ***Dubito ergo cogito ergo sum***
- I doubt therefore **I think, therefore I am.**

I am

- I think I am
- I am something that must exist
- Is 'I am' same as 'the body'?

Nature of Body

- Bound by a shape and occupies space
- Perceived by touch, sight, hearing, taste and smell.
- Nutrition
- Self movement
- Sensation

What is *I*?

- Descartes says
- “I judged that the power of self-movement, of sensing, and of thinking did not belong to the nature of physical objects, and in fact I am marveled that there were some physical object in which these powers could be found.”

What can be attributed to physical object?

- The **body** which *I have*.
- Sensation
- Nutrition
- Self movement
- The biological abilities of the organism.

I or the self

- Thinking – thought and thought alone cannot be taken away from me.
- I am, I exist
- If I completely stopped thinking, I would completely cease to exist.
- ***I am a thinking thing.***
 - Doubts, understands, affirms, desires, wills, refuses and also senses the mental images.

Reality of the self

- ***I refers*** to a mind, soul, understanding, or reason.
- *I know that I am real*
- *None of these physical thing exists till I am something.*
- *I as the self*
- *Has the ability to sense – represent my sensations, feelings, thoughts, ideas, etc.*

Am I not dreaming now?

- I seem to **see**...
- This seeming cannot be unreal, what is properly called sensing...
- *Sensing is just thinking*...
- How distinctly this is sensed?

Example of Wax

- The ability to comprehend things distinctly.
- **Wax from honeycomb**
- After **heating** the wax
- Carefully attending to the change of features ... see what is being left.
- ***Extension*** – essential feature of the body.

Mental inspection can be at once imperfect and confused

- Mind is prone to error
- “Even when I think to myself non-verbally, language stands in my way, and common usage close to deceiving me.”
- Looking and knowing things through pure eye-sight
- Knowing through mental inspection
- “Thus I comprehend my judgment, which is in my mind, objects that I once believed myself to see with my eyes.”

Revisiting the Wax

- **Undressing wax from its external forms
I view it naked**
- and it is grasped by human mind.
- **Grasping** is purely **mental inspection**
- The power of thought
- Having mental image
 - **Triangle** and **chiliagon** (thousand sides are logically possible)
 - **Understanding** is an ability of the mind.

