Epistemology: A guide

4. Plausibility and possibilities (Moore, "Certainty")

- 对于Stroud在第一节中提出的怀疑论证,我们至少有三种不同的回应:
- A. 否认"在梦中"的可能性是一种真正的可能性,在这种情况下,它不会威胁到我们对外部世界的认识
- B. 否认为了认识外部世界的事物, 我们必须知道梦的可能性是假的
- C. 坚持认为我们确实知道梦的可能性实际上是假的
 - A. Deny that the "dream-possibility" is a genuine possibility after all, in which case it does not threaten our knowledge of the external world, or
 - B. deny that in order to know things about the external world, we must know that the dream-possibility is false, or
 - C. insist that we do know that the dream-possibility is in fact false.
- Stroud更倾向于支持B,但是他并没有对B本身做出详细的论证,反之,他认为如果赞同C而不赞同B,则我们将会遭遇"完全的失败"(Total Failure),此外,他认为A的"希望渺茫"。然而,Moore的想法与Stroud恰好相反。
- 我们设想以下场景: 当Moore在怀疑论者面前站着演讲时, Moore和怀疑论者都同意, 如果Moore不知道梦的可能性是假的, 那么他就不知道"他站起来了"这个行为。换句话说, 他们都同意, 如果Moore知道他是站起来的, 那么他一定知道"在梦中"的可能性是假的。Moore和怀疑论者在决定如何理解他们所同意的这个条件时分道扬镳。

Moore的推理过程是:

- 1. 如果Moore知道他站起来了,那么他一定知道梦的可能性是假的。(前提)
- 2. Moore知道他站起来了。(前提)
- 3. 所以他知道梦的可能性是假的。(根据1和2)

Moore would have us reason like so:

- 1. If Moore knows he's standing up, then he must know the dreampossibility is false. (Premise)
- 2. Moore knows he's standing up. (Premise)
- 3. So he knows the dream-possibility is false. (From 1 and 2)

而怀疑论者的推理过程是:

- 1*. 如果Moore知道他是站起来的,那么他一定知道这个梦的可能性是假的。(前提)
- 2*. Moore不知道这个梦的可能性是假的。(前提)
- 3*.所以Moore不知道他是站起来的。(从1*和2*)

The skeptic would have us reason like so:

- 1*. If Moore knows he's standing up, then he must know the dream-possibility is false. (Premise)
- 2*. Moore doesn' t know the dream-possibility is false. (Premise)
- 3*. So Moore doesn' t know he' s standing up. (From 1* and 2*)

显然, Moore和怀疑论者的分歧在于2和2*

到目前为止,我们一直专注于感官经验可能无法促成对外部世界的知识(它可能只是一个梦境,也可能是由一个邪恶的魔鬼造成的)。

Moore的讨论出现了意想不到的转折,他认为感官经验并没有穷尽使他能够知道梦的可能性是假的证据。除了感官经验之外,他还有"对刚刚过去的记忆"。

Up till now, we' ve focused on ways that sense experience (or as Moore sometimes puts it, the evidence of our senses) might fail to enable knowledge of the external world, either because it was a mere figment of a dream or caused by an evil demon. Moore' s discussion takes an unexpected turn when he contends that sense experience doesn' t exhaust the evidence which enables his knowledge that the dream-possibility is false. In addition to sense experience, he has "memories of the immediate past."

在这个意义上,Moore接受了A。他认为,在拥有所有这些感官体验和记忆的同时,他似乎不可能在做梦。

- 需要注意的是,Moore并没有直接说,"在梦中"的可能性是不可能的;他的意思是,考虑到某些其他事情存在,因而这是不可能的(条件概率)。
- 考虑以下两件事:
- 1. 正好有两本书存在
- 2. 在正好有一本书存在的前提下,正好有两本书存在
- 显然2是不可能的

然而,Moore并没有解释以下问题:

- 为什么Moore认为鉴于他的感觉和记忆, dream-possibility是不可能的。
- 他同意,我们所有的感觉经验确实有可能是 "单纯的梦境"(mere dream-images),也就是说,仅仅是梦境的虚构。
- 那么,为什么我们所有记忆不能同样是梦中的虚构?如果我们所有的感官体验和所有的记忆都可以单独成为梦中的虚构,为什么它们不能共同成为梦中的虚构?
- 记忆,或者说记忆与感官经验的结合,是否有什么特别之处,使它们存在于梦中是不可能的,而感官经验则没有?

It's not clear why Moore thinks the dream-possibility is impossible given what he senses and remembers. He agrees that it's genuinely possible for all our sense experiences to be "mere dream-images," that is, mere figments of a dream. Why, then, couldn't all our apparent memories likewise be mere figments of a dream? And if all our sense experiences and all our memories could individually be mere figments of a dream, why

couldn't they collectively be mere figments of a dream? Is there something special about memories, or memories in combination with sense experience, that makes them immune to apparent reproduction in a dream, whereas sense experiences, on their own, are not?