Descartes - Blurb #1

by Forrest Cameranesi

In an issue of the comic "Herman", a man is seen standing and speaking on the telephone, saying "It's me. I think I'm having a nightmare. Check and see if I'm in bed." This is funny because if he were in fact having a nightmare, then the person on the other end of the phone would be just as illusory as anything else, as would be the bed that that person was asked to check, and so nothing that that person reported back to him about whether or not the man was in bed would be reliable information about whether the man really is having a nightmare or not. Thus, asking someone in a dream whether you are dreaming it utterly futile.