
Descartes Meditations

— Stephen Okita —

Meditations
on
First Philosophy
In Which
The Existence of God
And the Distinction of the
Soul from the Body
Are Demonstrated

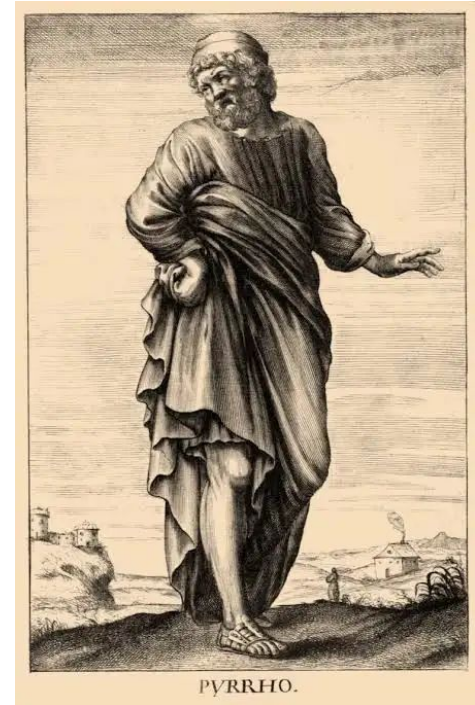
Plan

- Examine the premises to get to I think therefore I am
 - Issues with madness
 - Descartes counter argument via Jim Jefferies
- Epistlogmocial Contradictions of god
 - Explaining logical flaw
 - Issues with “Devil” argument
- Why did he do this?
 - Lip service to power
 - Counter theories and arguments
 - Hope I didn’t run out of time

Before Cogito Ergo Sum

Become a sceptic.

- Reject sensory knowledge
- We could be dreaming
 - Even if we are $2+3=5$ seems true
- Could be crazy?
- Could be an evil demon?
 - All powerful deceiver making him believe wrong things



But because he is doubting and thinking, he can not deny that he exists.

“Woo hoo, I think, therefore I am!” - Probably Descartes

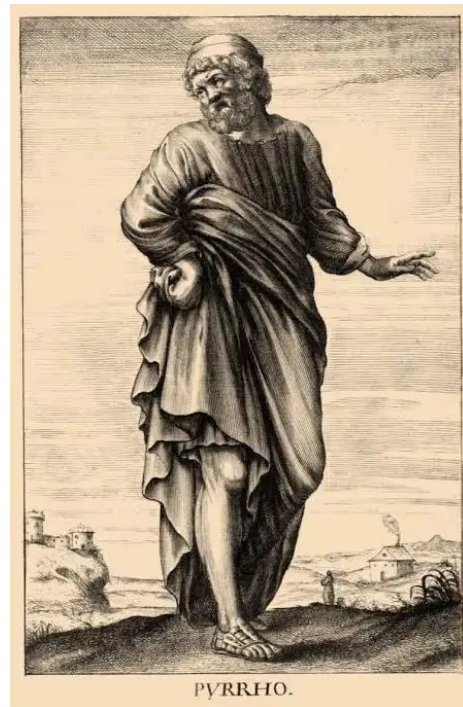


He should have stopped here

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Descartes Proof He Isn't Mad

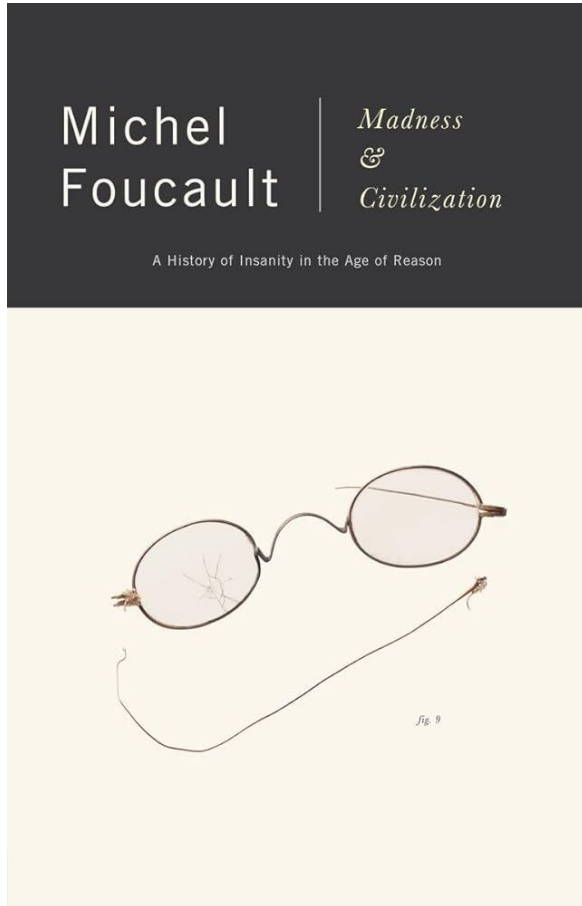
“Unless perhaps I were to liken myself to the insane, whose brains are impaired by such an unrelenting vapor of black bile that they steadfastly insist that they are kings when they are utter paupers, or that they are arrayed in purple robes when they are naked, or that they have heads made of clay, or that they are gourds, or that they are made of glass. **But such people are mad, and I would appear no less mad were I to take their behavior as an example for myself**”

First part:

- Defines madness on sensory perception and external ideas of the society he lives in. Not very sceptical.

Second Part

- Says he is not that by negation



What even is madness?

Not an objective condition but a socially constructed concept that has changed throughout history.

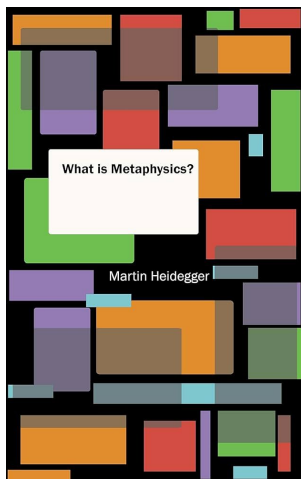
Modern society defined itself through opposition to madness. By labeling some thoughts/behaviors as "mad," society reinforced what counted as "rational."

Medicine for madness silenced the "mad" by making their experiences into objects of scientific study rather than forms of human expression.

Who is the mad one here

That in the uncanniness of anxiety we often try to shatter the vacant stillness with compulsive talk only proves the presence of the nothing. That anxiety reveals the nothing man himself immediately demonstrates when anxiety has dissolved... The nothing itself nothings.

Expressionless faces string blankly at pain, so devoid of meaning there must be evil intent, yet it is the self one has never met, whose face is pasted on the underside of their mind.



(Silence.)

What does she look like?
And how will I know her when I see her?
She'll die, she'll die, she'll only fucking die.

(Silence.)

Do you think it's possible for a person to be born in the wrong body?

(Silence.)

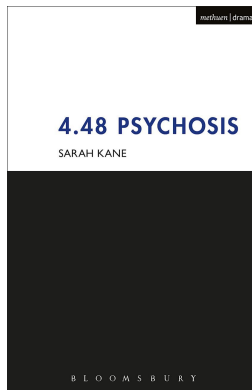
Fuck you. Fuck you. Fuck you for rejecting me by never being there,
fuck you for making me feel shit about myself, fuck you for bleeding
the fucking love and life out of me, fuck my father for fucking up my
life for good and fuck my mother for not leaving him, but most of all,
fuck you God for making me love a person who does not exist,
FUCK YOU FUCK YOU FUCK YOU.



In accident time where there are no accidents

You have no choice
the choice comes after

Cut out my tongue
tear out my hair
cut off my limbs
but leave me my love
I would rather have lost my legs



SARAH KANE 4.48 PSYCHOSIS

22

pulled out my teeth
gouged out my eyes
than lost my love

flash flicker slash burn wring press dab slash
flash flicker punch burn float flicker dab flicker
punch flicker flash burn dab press wring press
punch flicker float burn flash flicker burn

it will never pass

Descartes counter: Cogito Ergo Sum still holds



After the 2nd meditation tho nothing does

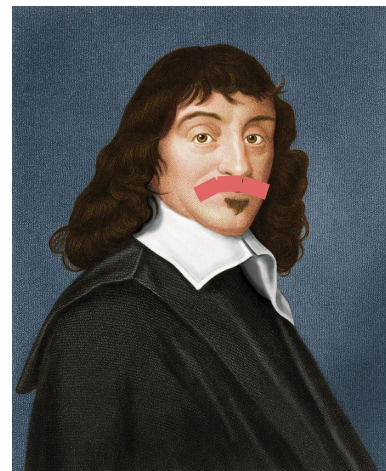
Epistemological Error to the Nth Degree

He begins making a priori claims and being a good sceptic

- Doesn't do this perfectly but Cogito Ergo Sum still holds

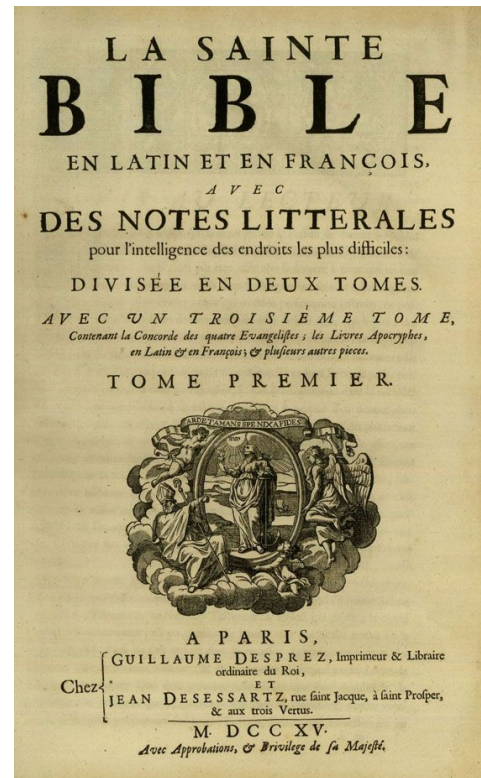
Post 2nd:

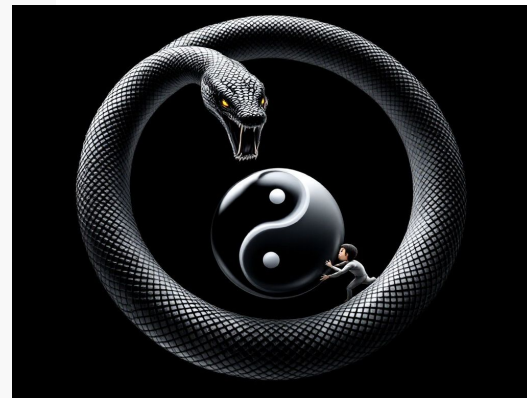
- Abandons Sceptical foundations
- What am I is not asked at all it is given an answer
- God is an imported concept
- Causation, degrees of reality, and perfection are not adequately analysed



Descartes God

- Infinite
- Supremely perfect
- independent and self-caused
- Eternal
- Immutable
- Omniscient (All knowing)
- Omnipotent (all powerful)
- A single Substance
- Non-deceiver





Arguments for god

Causal argument (Third Meditation):

- | | | |
|----|--|---|
| 1. | We have an idea of God as an infinite, perfect being | |
| 2. | This idea must have a cause with at least as much reality as the idea contains | |
| 3. | A finite being (like myself) cannot cause the idea of an infinite being | |
| 4. | Only an actually existing infinite being (God) could cause this idea | |
| 5. | -> Therefore, God exists | □ |

Preservation Argument (Third Meditation)

- | | | |
|----|---|---|
| 1. | I exist now, but I could cease to exist at any moment | |
| 2. | Something must continually sustain my existence | |
| 3. | I cannot sustain my own existence | |
| 4. | Therefore, something other than myself (God) must preserve me | |
| 5. | Therefore god exists | □ |

Ontological argument (Fifth Meditation):

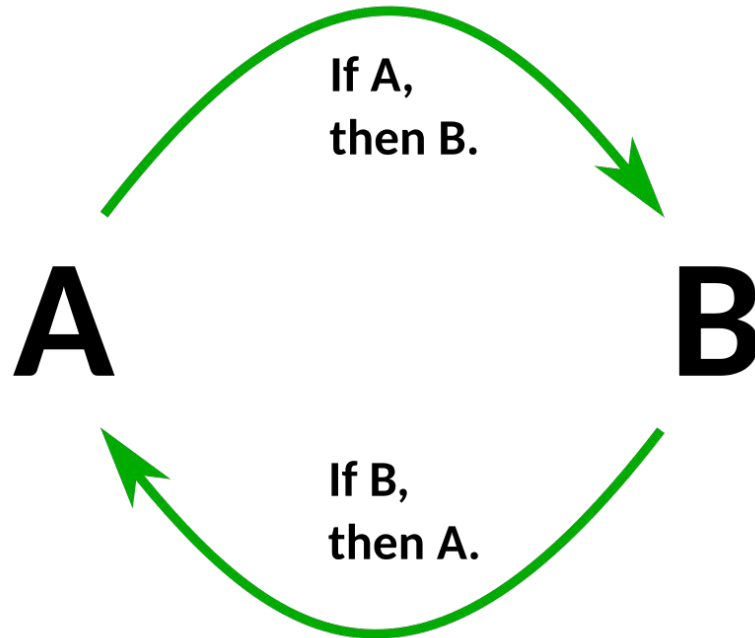
- | | | |
|----|--|---|
| 1. | I have a clear and distinct idea of God as a supremely perfect being | |
| 2. | Existence is a perfection | |
| 3. | It would be contradictory to conceive of a perfect being lacking the perfection of existence | |
| 4. | -> Therefore, God necessarily exists | □ |

Arguments material falsity (things don't exist)

“Nor can it be said that this **idea of God** is perhaps materially false and thus can originate from nothing (outside the mind), as I remarked just now about the ideas of heat and cold, and the like On the contrary, because it [the idea of God] is the most clear and distinct and because it **contains more objective reality than any other idea**, no idea is in and of itself truer and has less of a basis for being suspected of falsehood.”

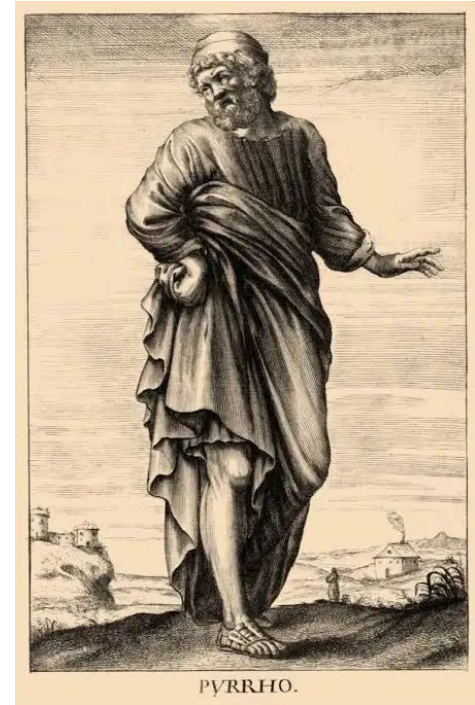
"I can trust clear and distinct ideas about causation and reality" → "God exists"

"God exists" → "Therefore I can trust clear and distinct ideas"



Before Cogito Ergo Sum

- Reject all previous knowledge
- Reject sensory knowledge
- We could be dreaming
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The Experience Machine

by Robert Nozick (1974, 1989)



Descartes argument against the Devil

“It is manifest by the light of nature that all fraud and deception depend on some defect.”

- Evil is not something positive: it is a lack of perfection
- God does not lack any perfections, so God is not a deceiver.

This is stupid and because this is false it is possible that even $2+3=5$ is true



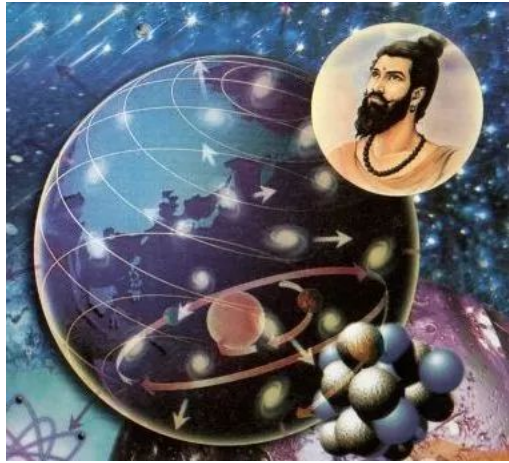
“I believe in **Spinoza's** God, Who reveals Himself in the lawful harmony of the world, not in a God Who concerns Himself with the fate and the doings of mankind.”



Counter to Gradations of Reality and Substance - Atomism



Minima Naturalia



Nyāya-Vaiśeṣika



Leucippus



Democritus



Lip service to power

“For in that case I would have had too many marvels to admire at the same time, and seeing superhuman discourse emerging from a body so similar to those painters give to angels, I would have been delighted in the same manner as it seems to me must be those who, coming from the earth, enter newly into heaven.”

- Glazing Elizabeth

he is doing the same to god so he doesn't die

Giordano Bruno



Galileo Galilei

