

Persons

Lecture 4: Dead Animals

1. Animalism and Death What should we think about our death if animalism is true?

2. The Big Question about Death What happens to us, human persons, when we die? Either we cease to exist (Annihilation), or we do not cease to exist (Survival). How can a human person survive death?

3. The Death of Ani and Per Take the case of Ani, *this* animal, and Per, *this* human person (pointing to the same thing). Animalism maintains that Per is (numerically identical to) Ani. What happens to Per if Ani dies?

4. The Corpse Dilemma Assume we are animals, and assume Annihilation. The corpse problem: when Per dies, an animal corpse presents itself. Where did it come from? Either it came into existence at Per's death (corpse creationism), or it co-existed with Per during her life (corpse concurrentism). Both are absurd. Hence, we are not animals (Animalism is false) *or* Per does not cease to exist when she dies (Annihilation is false).

5. Dead Animals Per may continue to exist if death is irrelevant to animal persistence. Are dead animals indeed possible? Suggestion: animals persist for as long as the arrangement of their particles is appropriately caused by the activities of their (former) lives. In that case, animals are not essentially alive.

6. Essentially Living Beings But isn't Per, a human person, essentially alive? Two ways to understand the claim that persons are essentially alive. 'Necessarily, if Per is a person, she is alive.' or 'If Per is a person, she is necessarily alive'. Do we have reason to think *we* are essentially living beings?