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PHI 203 Sec 001

Professor Smith

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Reading Question # 5

I would advise Mr. Vladek not to go through with the procedure. There is just no possible way that transplanting a brain from one body to the next can perpetuate a person. I feel that identity would cease and a new identity would transpire, because so much is based on experience and memory and in a new body these might feel and seem off. I think even though the boy is an emotional tornado, going to such far measures to reduce the symptoms and hopefully foster a normal childhood for him would do quite the opposite as they attempt to manufacture the son they always wanted.

Miller states that if one was to attend a double header baseball game and remove oneself to fetch popcorn and the like, only to be prolonged forty five minutes in the effort before returning to the game. Upon returning, one would ask if this was the same they were previously watching. He states succinctly that it could be the same game even if none of the previous parts of the game are the same. He basically argues that even if all the players were replaced, the location was changed, the time shifted, ad infinitum, that this could still be the same game if it is an extension of the previous game via score, batting order, and so on and is identified as such. His point is to argue that souls via consciousness act in a similar way, being a continuation of previous thoughts and feelings connected to present thoughts and feelings through memory via an ever flowing stream, even if there are interruptions, as the popcorn interlude would surely represent sleep, mediation, or other conscious distractions that interrupt the flow of connected thoughts.