

Weekly 9

Can thought go on without a body?

Lyotard's "Can Thought go on without a Body" reminded me of my childhood when my dad literally gave lectures everyday on Christianity. My parents, who have been committed in practicing Christianity for as long as I can remember, forced me to believe in Christianity by making me go to church every Sunday. I still remember how they tried scaring me by making me believe how I will end up in hell if I don't practice Christianity myself. In doing so, my parents explained their perspectives behind the concept of body and soul mostly in religious terms. Because Christians believe that body and soul are separated by nature, to answer this week's weekly question, a Christian theorist like my parents would argue that a thought can indeed go on without a body. What makes up an individual, according to the Christian belief, is not the physical body but the soul inside the body. Therefore when the physical body has served its purpose, the soul moves on and is placed before judgement under God. What I believe in is quite contradictory to my parents' beliefs as my beliefs are a little more liberal and are in no relation to any religious beliefs. I believe that thoughts cannot go on without a body as I consider the body and soul to be interchangeable. In other words, one cannot serve its purpose unless the body and soul are in complete sync with one another. Lyotard's vision of our future society was fearfully overwhelming in terms of imagining the possibility of living in a society where everything about the human mind and the brain can be 'downloaded' and purchased. Assuming this ideological notion of Lyotard becomes our reality, the envisioned society will eventually come to abuse the system and start stealing other people's data to benefit their needs. We must constantly strive to be individual citizens vigilant of this potential phenomenon to prevent living in this type of a world.