

Arguments about the Soul

Metaphysics, 11/2023

1. SOUL AS SUBSTANTIAL FORM

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| 1 What enables the essential operations of a substance is the substantial form. | from the hylomorphic theory |
| 2 The essential operations of human beings is sensing and thinking. | from observation |
| 3 Sensing and thinking are enabled by the soul. | from the definition of the soul |
| ∴ Therefore, the soul is the substantial form of the living human being. | from 1, 2, 3 |

2. THE INTELLECT SUBSISTS

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| 1 That which can have cognition of certain things must have none of those things in its own nature when operating. | examples: seeing with a tinted eye. Empirical premise? |
| 2 The intellect can have cognition of all physical things. | assumption |
| 3 Therefore, the intellect must have no physical thing in its own nature. | from 1, 2 |
| 4 Therefore, the intellect does not operate through a bodily organ. | corollary of 3 |
| 5 What can operate on its own needs to be able to subsist on its own. | operation assumes existence |
| ∴ Therefore, the intellect can subsist on its own. | from 4, 5 |

3. THE BODY IS PART OF THE PERSON

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| 1 What carries out essential operation of a thing, is part of that thing. | obvious |
| 2 Sensing is an essential operation of human beings (vs. Plato (<i>Phaedo</i>)). | assumption or by observation? |
| 3 Sensing occurs through the body (vs. Descartes). | you can't do it without organs |
| ∴ Therefore, the body is part of the human being. | from 1, 2, 3 |