

Descartes is regarded as the father of modern philosophy

He was disillusioned with traditional philosophy.

On the other hand, he was struck by the certainty of mathematics.

As the "inventor" of analytic geometry, he wanted to use the "geometrical method" for doing philosophy.

Descartes is regarded as the father of modern philosophy

Descartes' method attempted to base his conclusions on reason alone.

Through intuition he could know certain basic and undoubtable truths.

Through deduction he could draw from these basic truths still further truths.

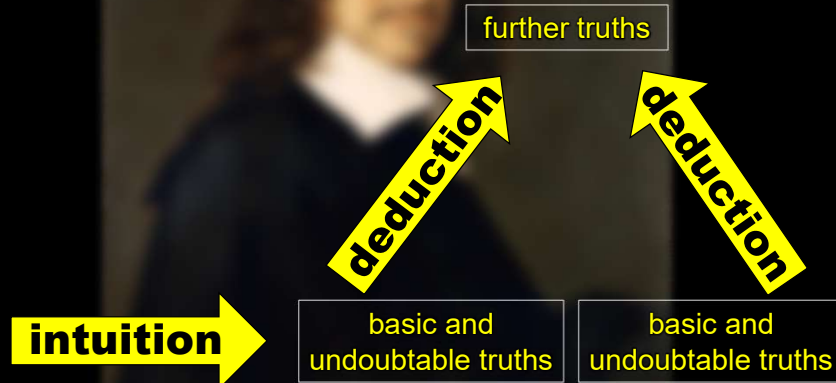
Some Contemporary Logic Terminology: Induction

- ❖ *premises make the conclusion probable*
 - *e.g., repeated observations of a given subject might lead to a generalization about the nature of that subject*
 - *Contrary to a popular definition, induction does not have to conclude generalizations.*

Some Contemporary Logic Terminology: *Deduction*

- ❖ *premises make the conclusion necessary*
 - *Mathematics serves as one example of deduction.*
 - *Contrary to a popular definition, deduction does not have to conclude particulars.*

Descartes' "Geometric" (mathematical) Method



***Descartes employed his
"methodological doubt" also called
"systematic doubt."***

***He would doubt anything and
everything that was doubtable in
hopes of discovering something
certain.***

Descartes' philosophy unfolds in three major stages:

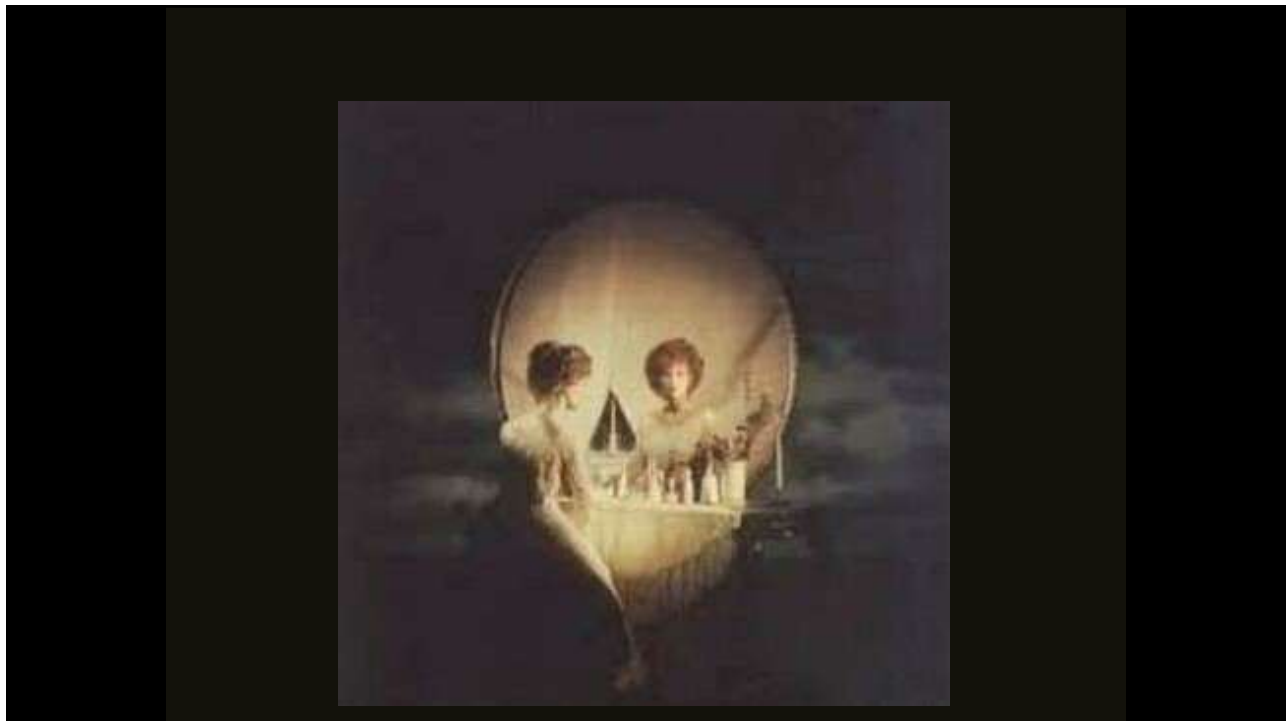
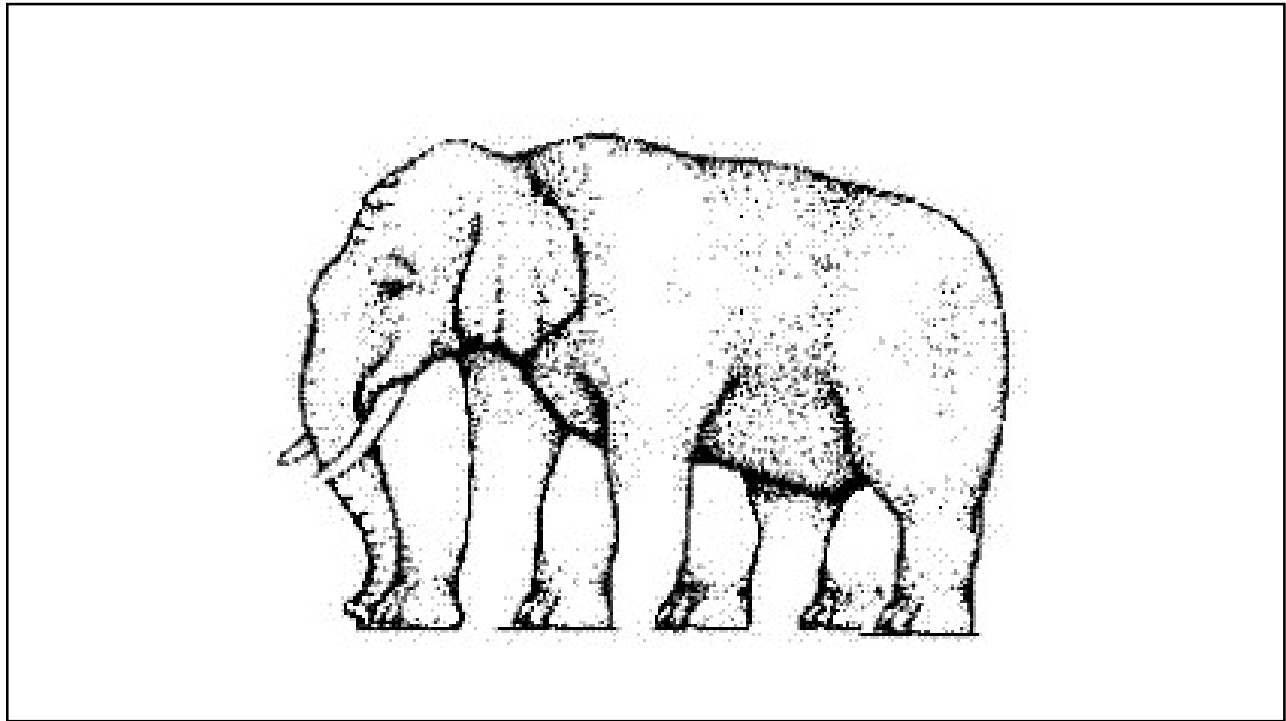
1. *the knowledge of self*
2. *the knowledge of God*
3. *the knowledge of material world*

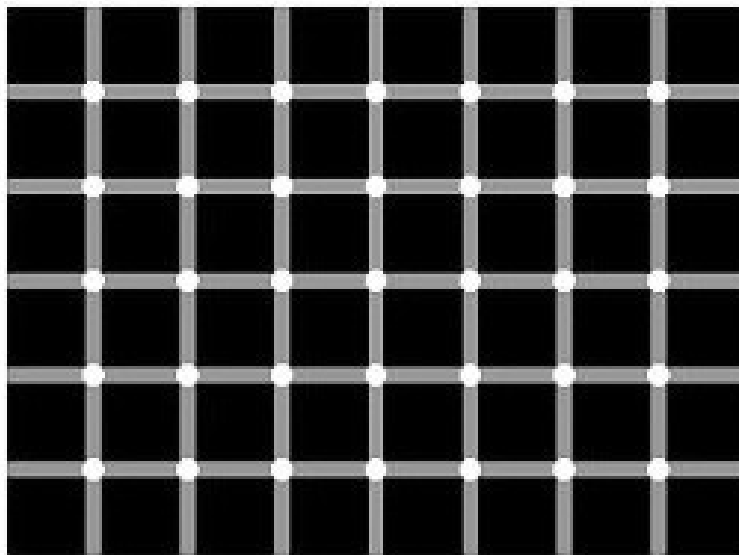
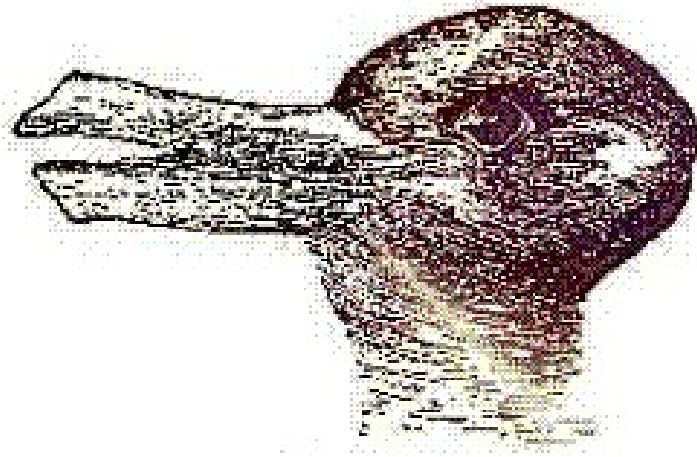


***In attempting to prove that he exists,
Descartes' procedure will be to find
something he cannot doubt.***

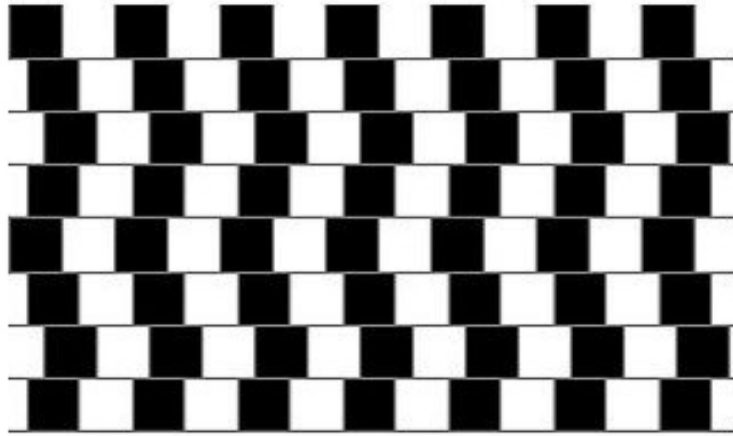
- *Perhaps he could not trust his senses.*
 - ❖ *optical illusions*





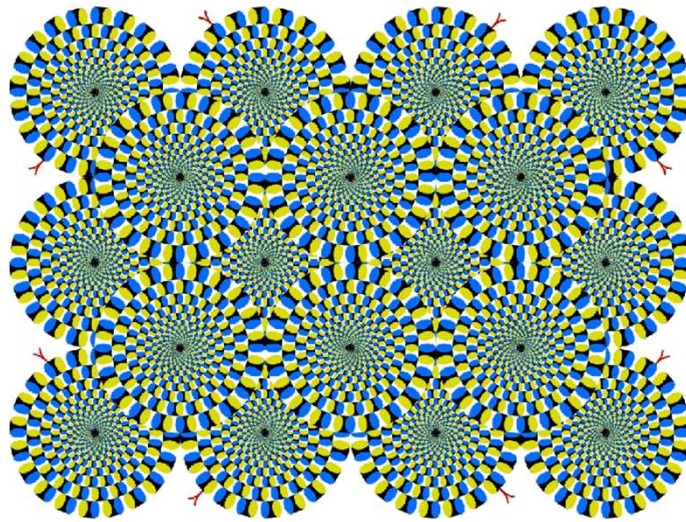


Count the black dots.

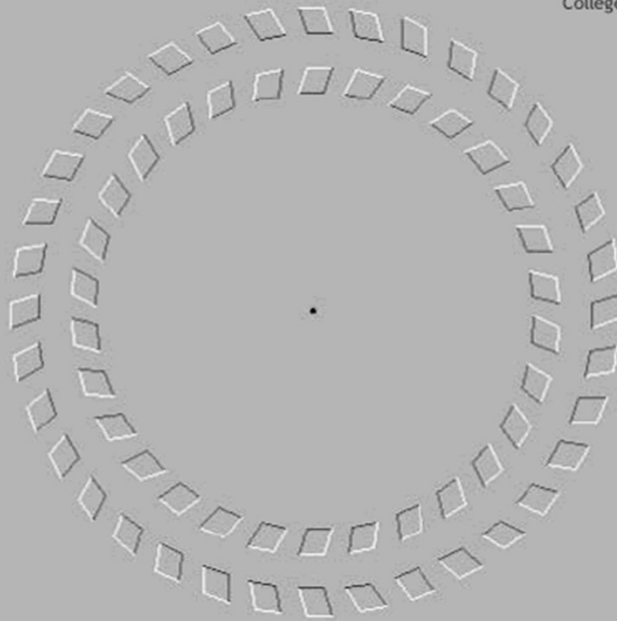


Are the horizontal lines parallel or do they slope?





Focus on the dot in the center and move your head back and forth. Wow...
CollegeBoredom.com



***In attempting to prove that he exists,
Descartes' procedure will be to find
something he cannot doubt.***

- *Perhaps he could not trust his senses.*
 - ❖ *optical illusions*
 - ❖ *a dream*
 - ❖ *evil demon*

The Intuition of Mind

- 1. I cannot doubt that I am doubting.*
 - a. If I am certain that I am doubting, then I am doubting.*
 - b. If I doubt that I am doubting, then I am doubting.*
- 2. If I am doubting, then I am thinking.*
- 3. If I am thinking, then I exist.*
- 4. Cogito ergo sum: I think, therefore, I am.*

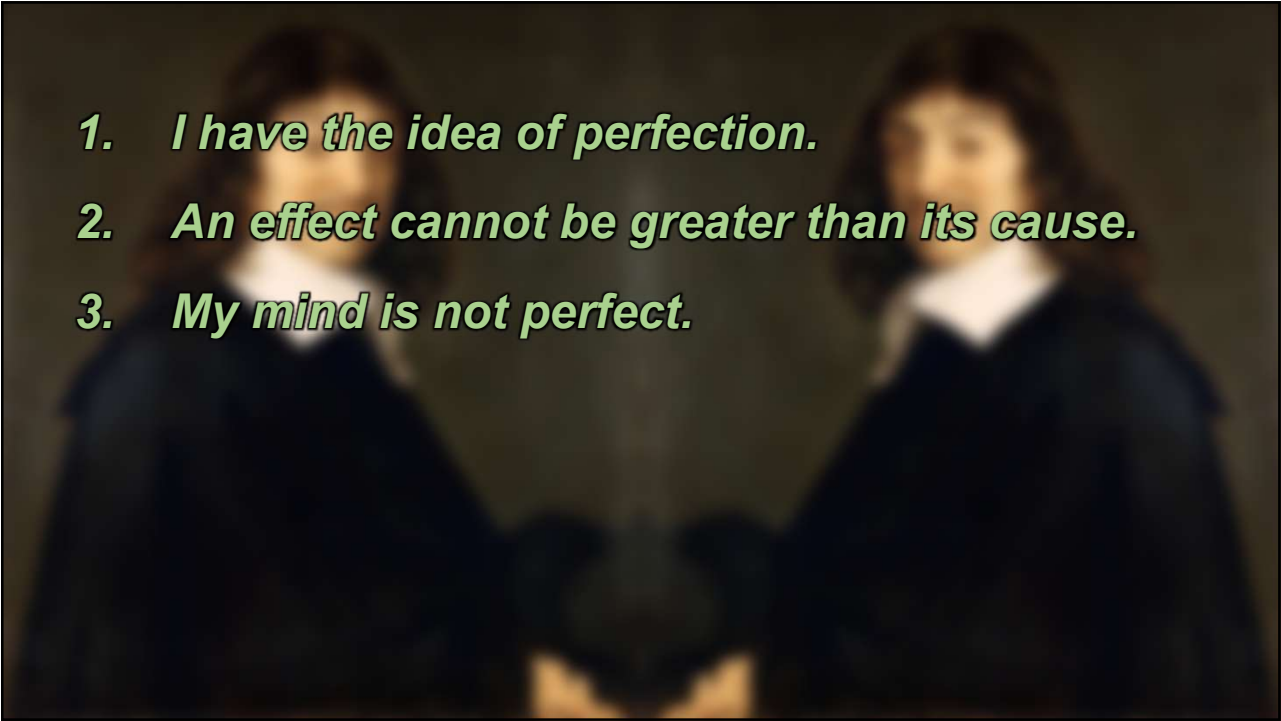
"But, what am I?"

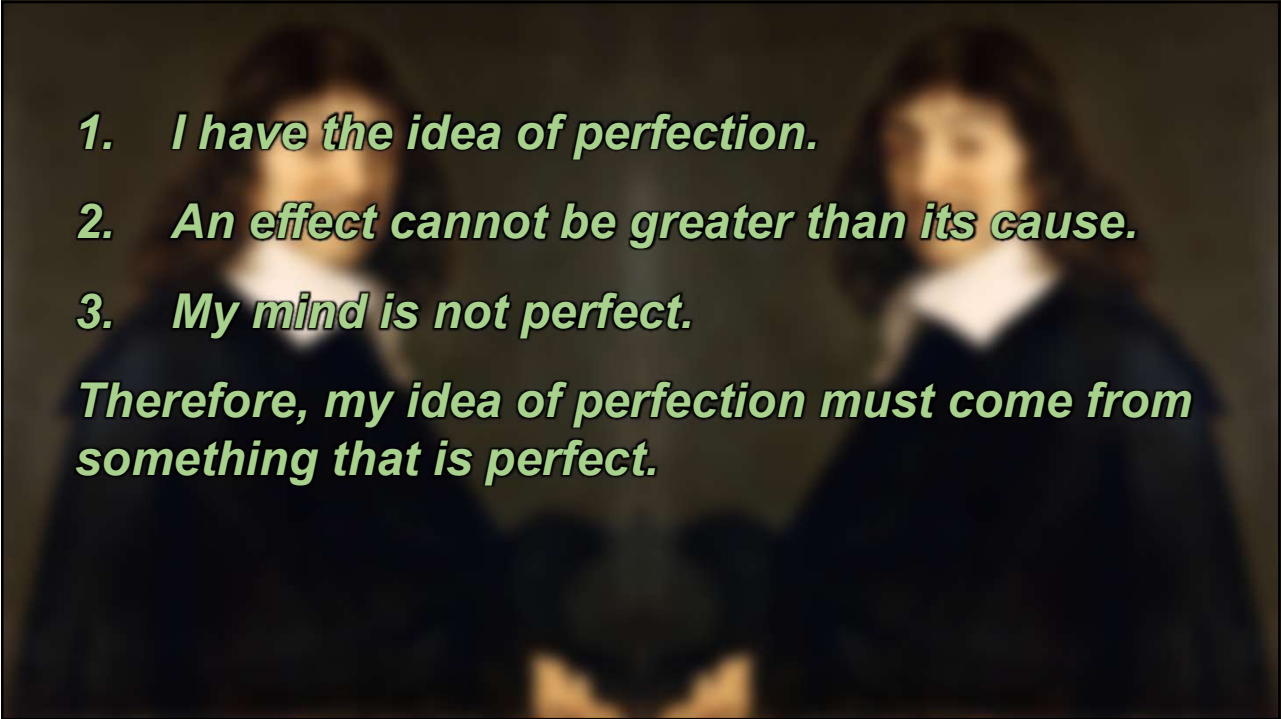
*a **substance**: the whole
essence or nature of
which is to think*



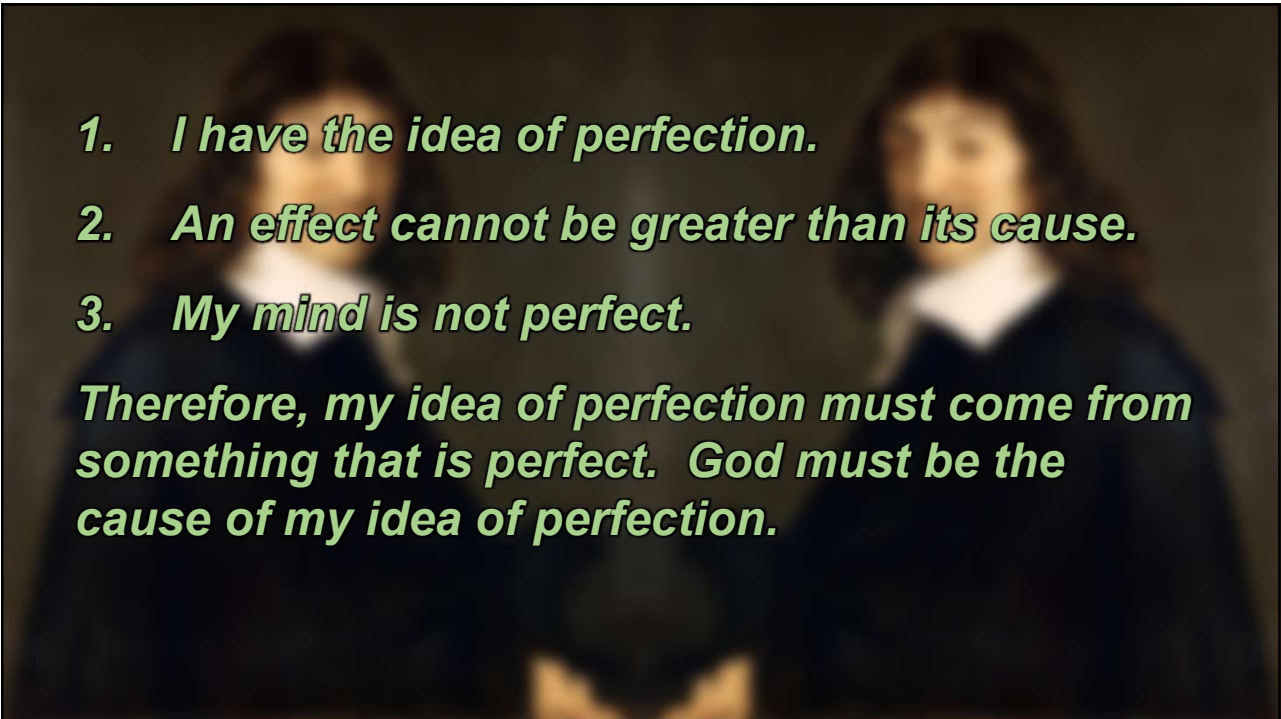


Descartes' Eidological Argument for God


- 
1. *I have the idea of perfection.*
 2. *An effect cannot be greater than its cause.*
 3. *My mind is not perfect.*

- 
1. *I have the idea of perfection.*
 2. *An effect cannot be greater than its cause.*
 3. *My mind is not perfect.*


Therefore, my idea of perfection must come from something that is perfect.

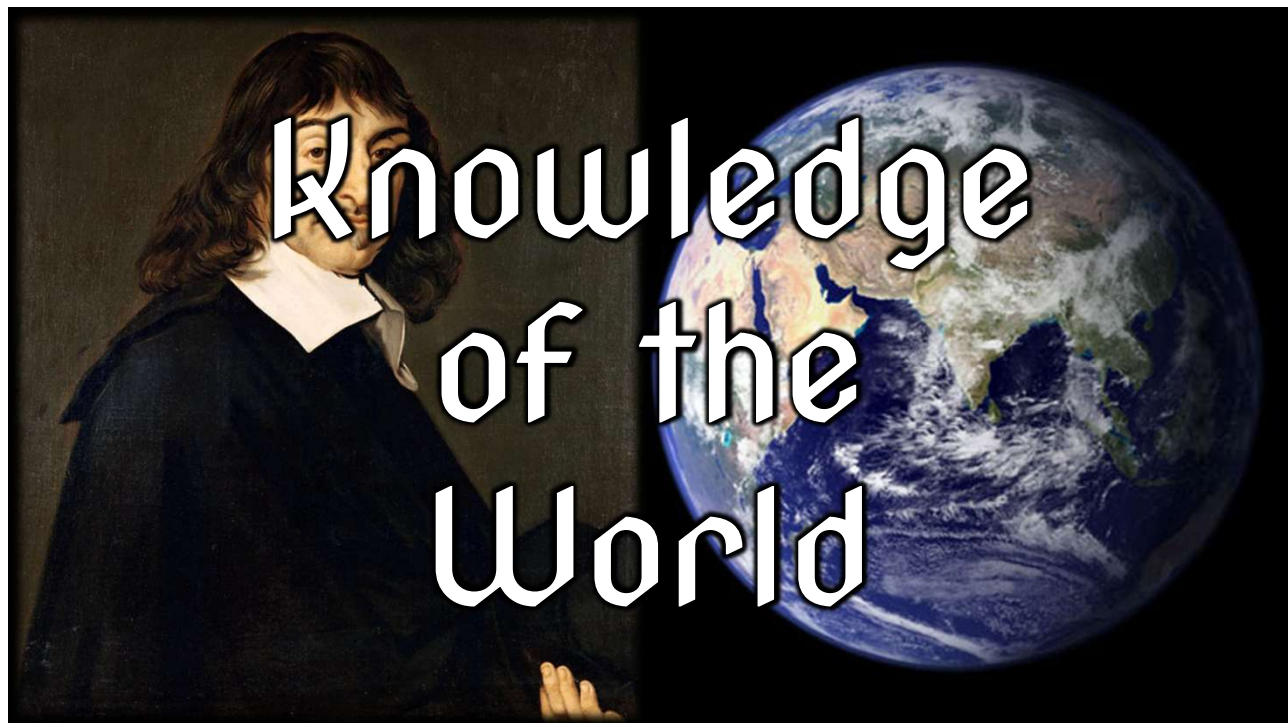
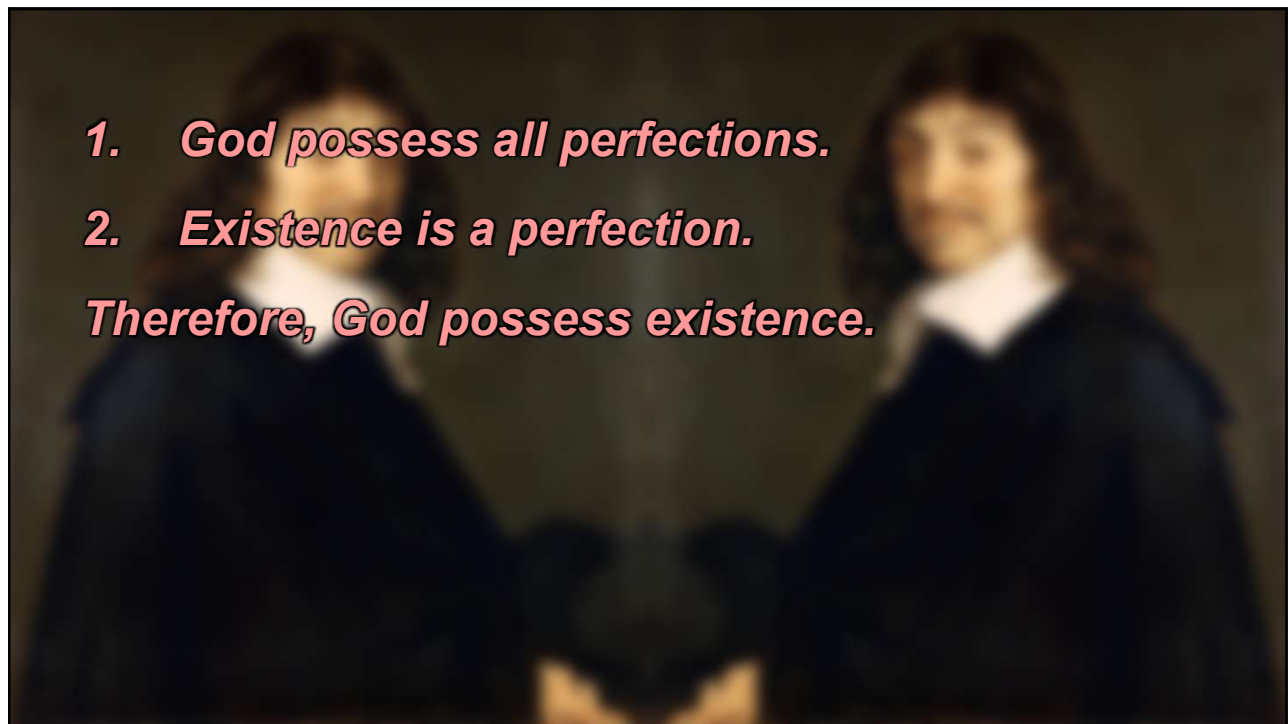
- 
1. *I have the idea of perfection.*
 2. *An effect cannot be greater than its cause.*
 3. *My mind is not perfect.*

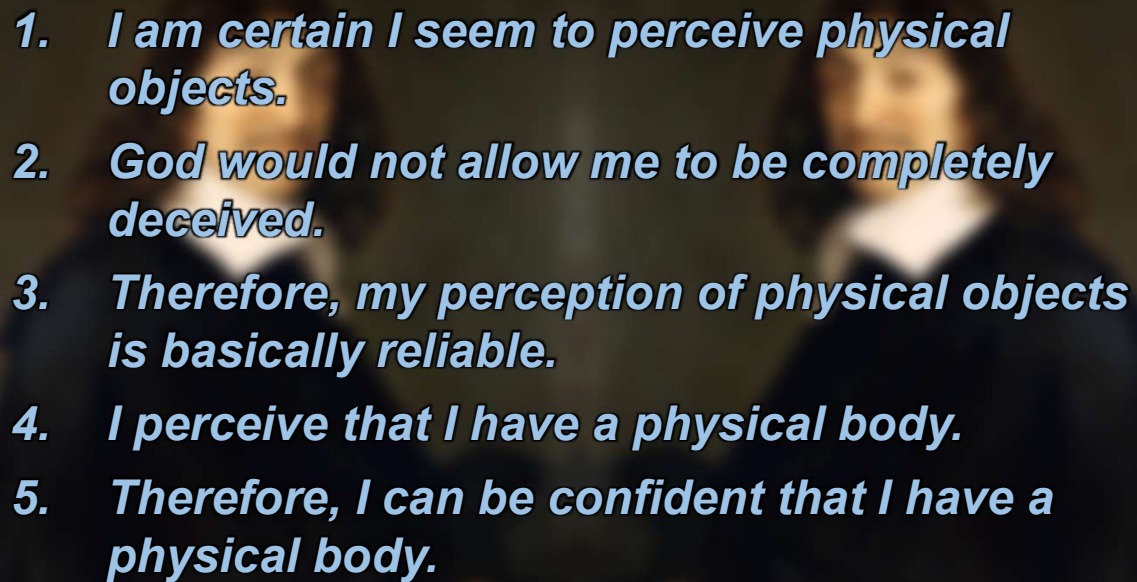
Therefore, my idea of perfection must come from something that is perfect. God must be the cause of my idea of perfection.

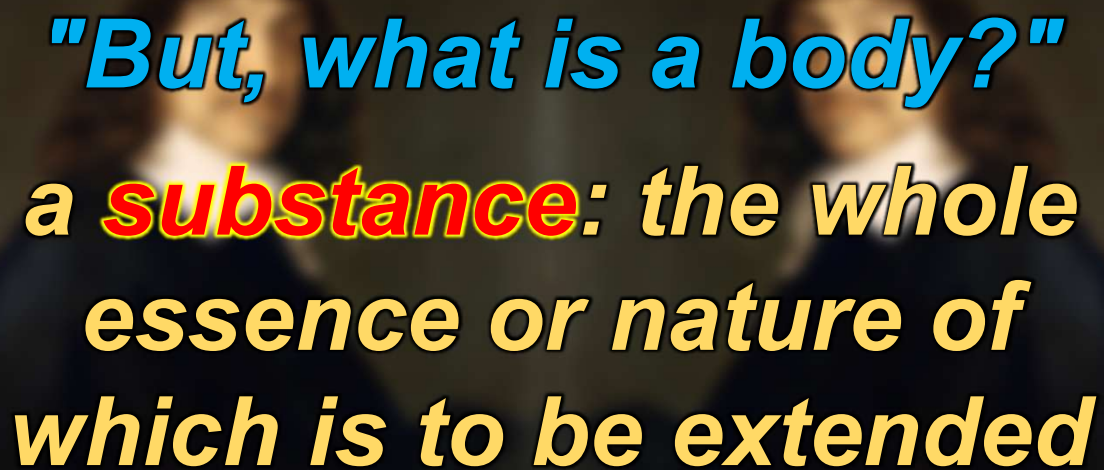


Descartes' Ontological Argument for God

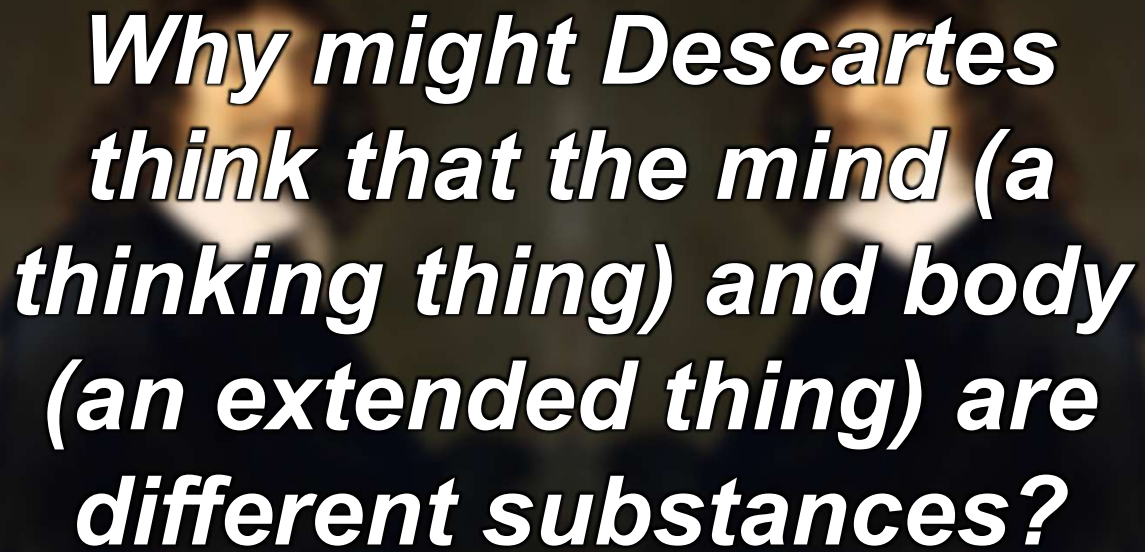
- 
1. *God possess all perfections.*
 2. *Existence is a perfection.*



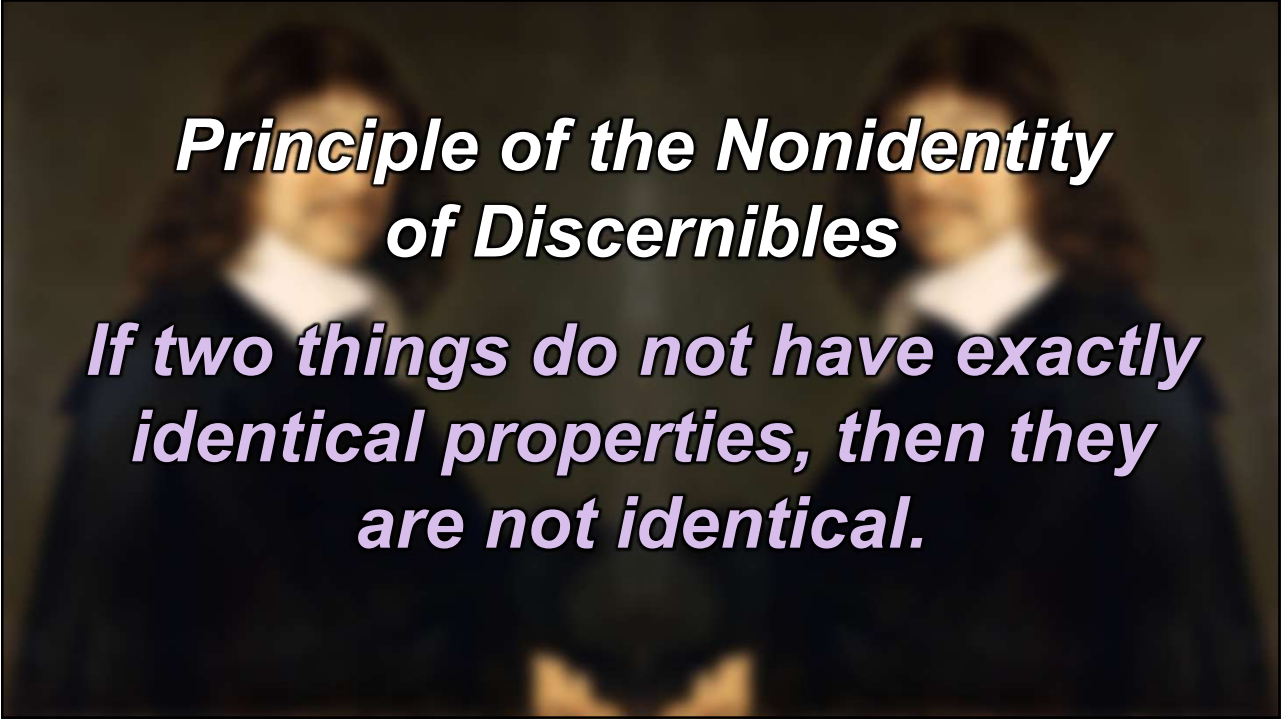
- 
1. *I am certain I seem to perceive physical objects.*
 2. *God would not allow me to be completely deceived.*
 3. *Therefore, my perception of physical objects is basically reliable.*
 4. *I perceive that I have a physical body.*
 5. *Therefore, I can be confident that I have a physical body.*



"But, what is a body?"
***a substance: the whole
essence or nature of
which is to be extended***



Why might Descartes think that the mind (a thinking thing) and body (an extended thing) are different substances?



Principle of the Nonidentity of Discernibles

If two things do not have exactly identical properties, then they are not identical.

- 1. The body has property A.*
- 2. The mind has property non-A.*
- 3. If two things do not have exactly identical properties, then they cannot be identical.*

Therefore, the mind and the body are not identical. They are two completely different entities.

The Argument from Doubt

- 1. I can doubt my body exists.*
- 2. I cannot doubt my mind exists.*
- 3. If two things do not have exactly identical properties, then they cannot be identical.*

Therefore, the mind and the body are not identical.

The Argument from Divisibility

1. *The body is divisible.*
2. *The mind is indivisible.*
3. *If two things do not have exactly identical properties, then they cannot be identical.*

Therefore, the mind and the body are not identical.

The Argument from Consciousness

1. *The mind has the property of consciousness.*
2. *The body does not have the property of consciousness.*
3. *If two things do not have the exactly identical properties, then they cannot be identical.*

Therefore, the mind and the body are not identical.

The Mind/Body Problem

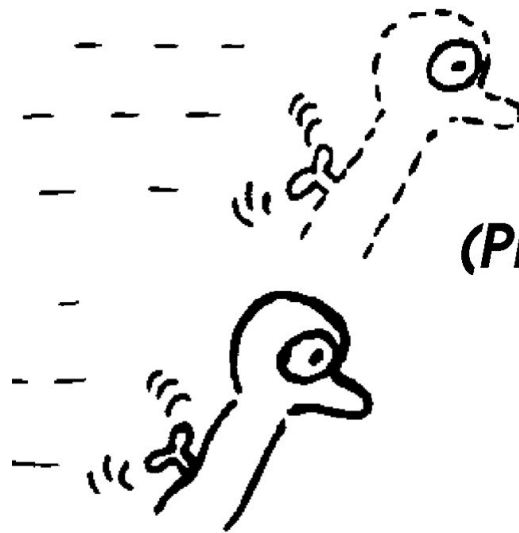
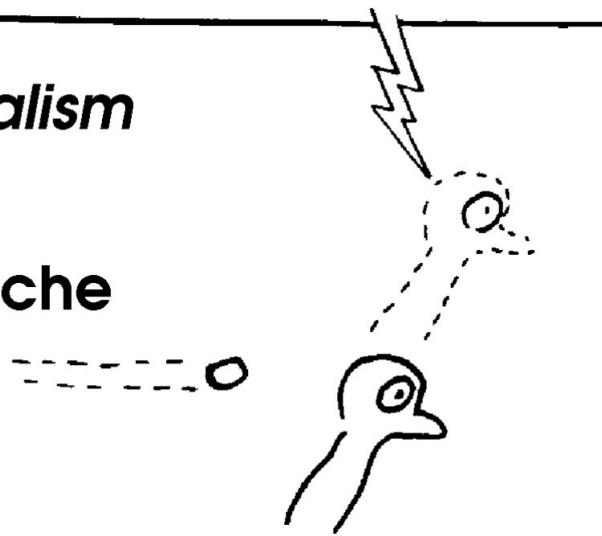


Interactionism

Descartes

Occasionalism

Malebranche



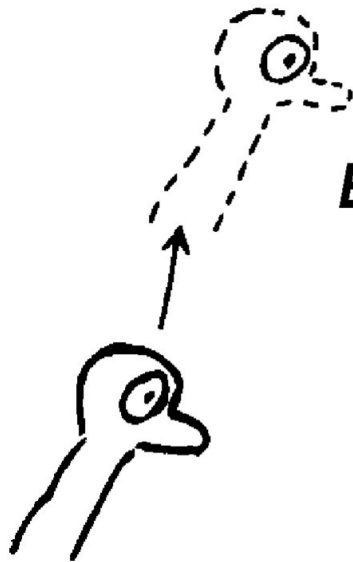
**Parallelism
(Pre-established
Harmony)**

Leibniz



Double Aspect Theory

Spinoza



Epiphenomenalism

T. H. Huxley



Functionalism

- ❖ *contemporary option opted for over epiphenomenalism*
- ❖ *mind is a function of body (software to hardware)*



Emergent Property View

- ❖ *common option for contemporary materialist philosophers*
- ❖ *mind is to body as white is to red/blue/green*

