

Thomas Hobbes: Leviathan

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The Monist Materialist

- Monism- “the metaphysical view that there is only one basic kind of reality” (Merlchert).
- Materialism- “the view that the fundamental reality is matter, as understood by the sciences- primarily physics; mind or spirit has no independent reality(Merlchert).

Hobbes's Beliefs

- Universe made of bodies, nothing else
- No empty space
- No spirits
- Mind is really body

Hobbes Vs. Descartes

Monism	Dualism
Soul/ mind= Body	Soul/ Mind and Body
No God (artificial man)	God
When body dies, soul dies	When body dies, soul lives on: immortality of the soul

Motion

- 1) Universe made of bodies
- 2) Bodies made of atoms
- 3) Atoms are constantly moving
- Therefore, everything is always in motion:
 - “.. When a thing is in motion, it will eternally be in motion, unless something else stops it...” (AW 116)
- Motion produces only motion
 - For example, pain

Motion and the Senses

- What is sound?
 - Vibrations in the air
- What is smell?
 - Odor molecules interacting with nerves in the nose
- What is sight?
 - Pupils dilating
- What is touch?
 - Stimulation of nerves- (Meditation of nerves)

Senses

- Hobbes's description of the senses: “there is no conception in a man's mind, which has not at first, totally, or by parts, been begotten upon the organs of sense” (A&W 116)

Sense Perception

- Hobbes has a “stamp” view of perception.
 - The world seems to stamp itself on our brain.
- Creating imagination/ memory
 - All knowledge comes from your senses

True Claim?

- How accurate is Hobbes's perception theory?
- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ahg6qcgoay4>

Activity:



Results

- If Hobbes's “stamp” theory were accurate, we would be able to remember every detail of the image.
- However, we cannot.
- What does this tell us about Hobbes's theory?
- ????