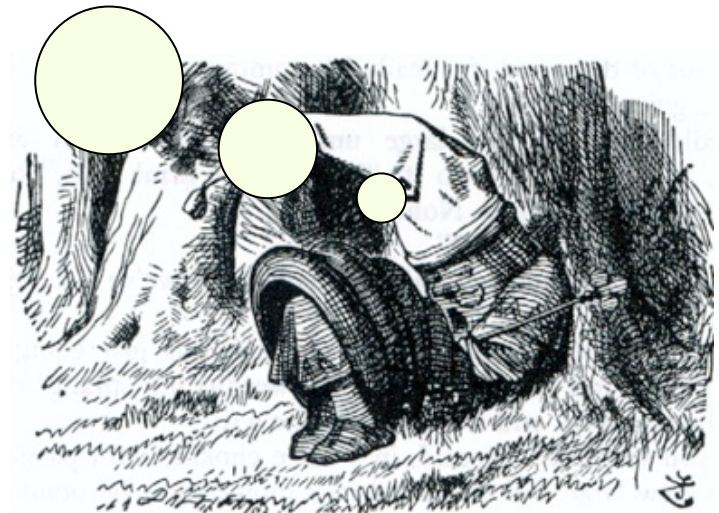


Descartes
and
Epistemology
(part three)

Cogito Ergo Sum

(I think, therefore I am)

Can I exist *only* in a dream?



Alice being dreamt by the Red King ...

Can I exist *only* in a dream?



Mais
non!



Alice being dreamt by #



I exist ... no matter what.

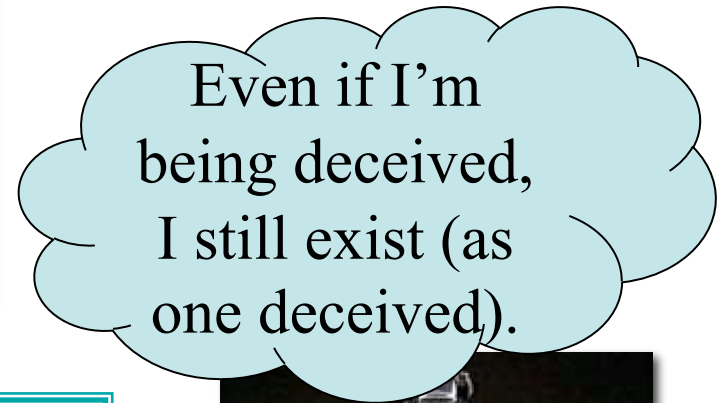
Even with bad hair, I still exist (as one with bad hair).



Even if I'm dreaming, I still exist as a dreamer.



Even if I'm being deceived, I still exist (as one deceived).

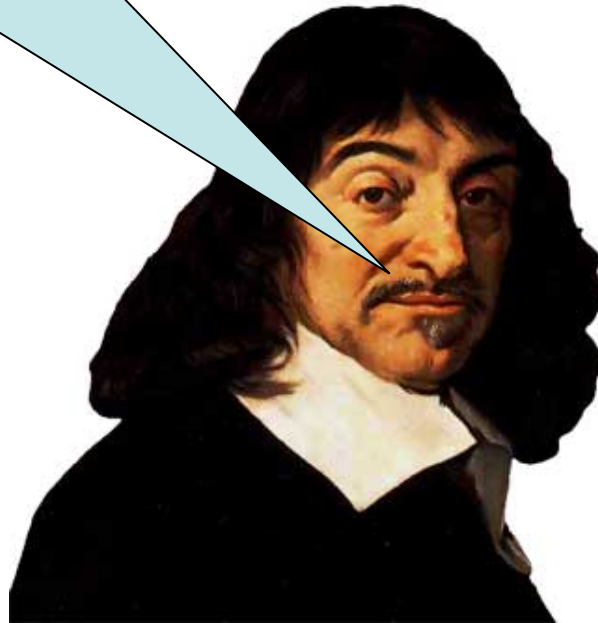


**cogito
ergo
sum**

The Cartesian Self

What am I?

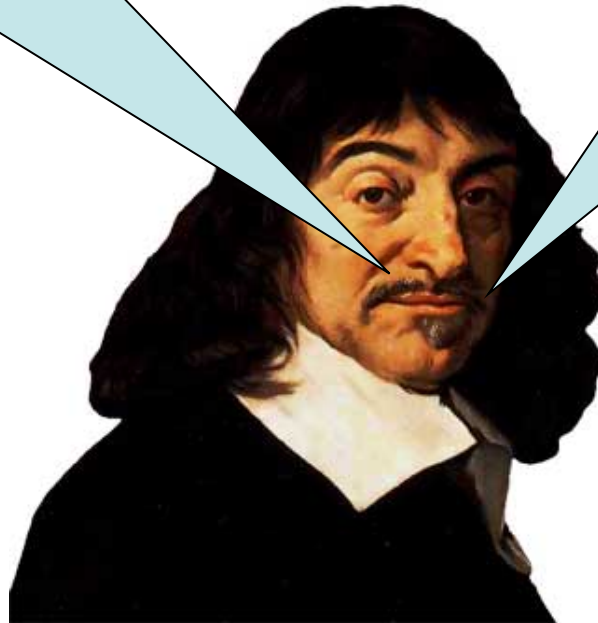
I know *that* I
am ...



What am I?

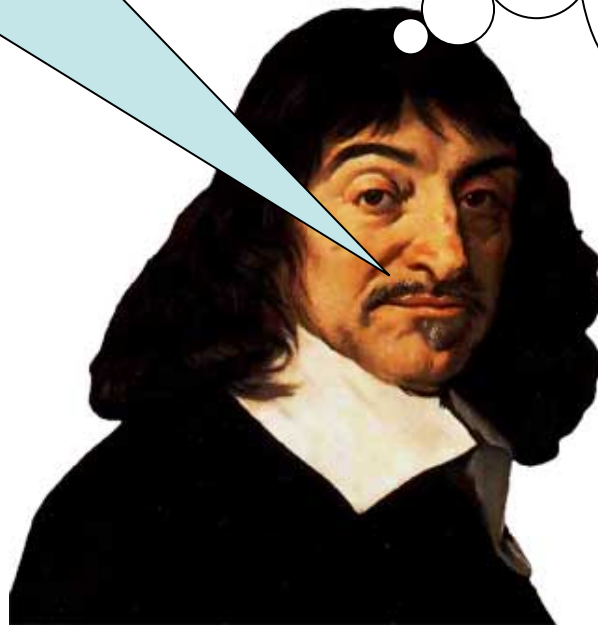
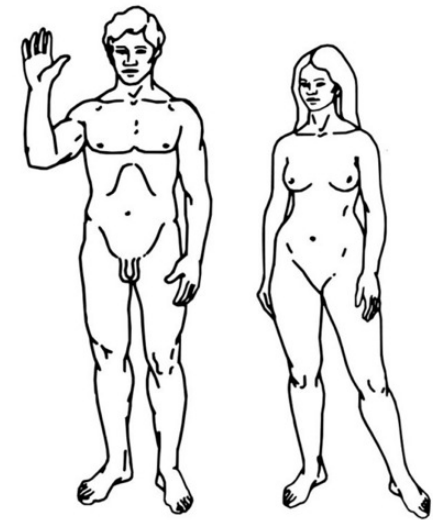
I know *that* I
am ...

... but
not *what*
I am.



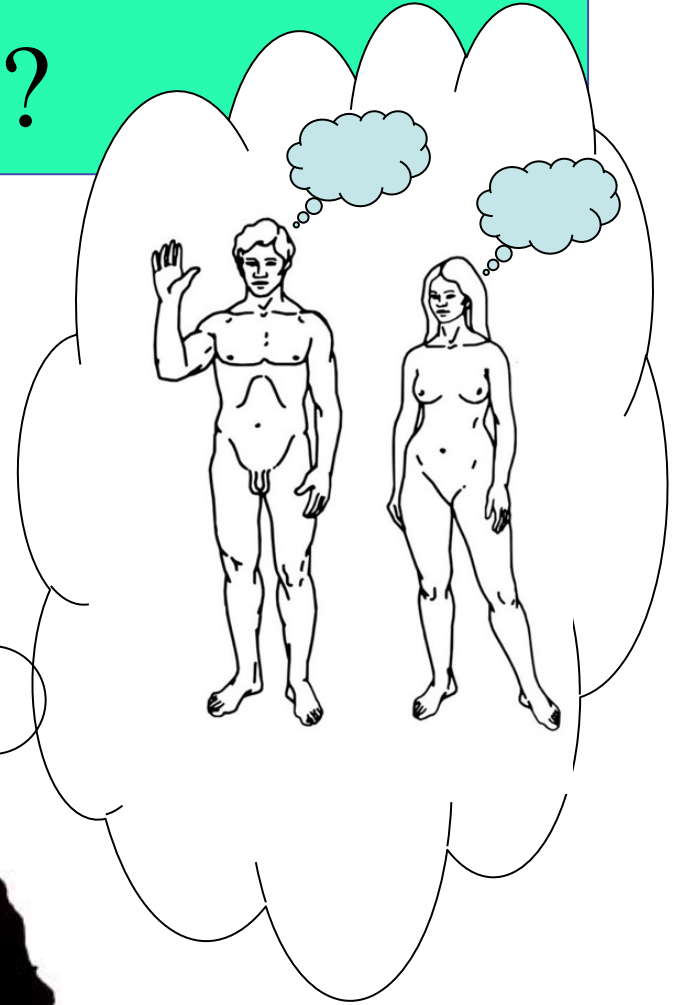
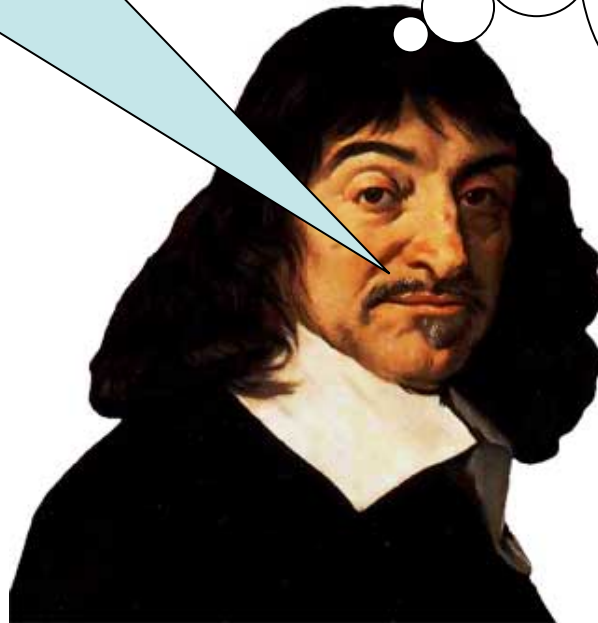
What am I?

Am I a
body?



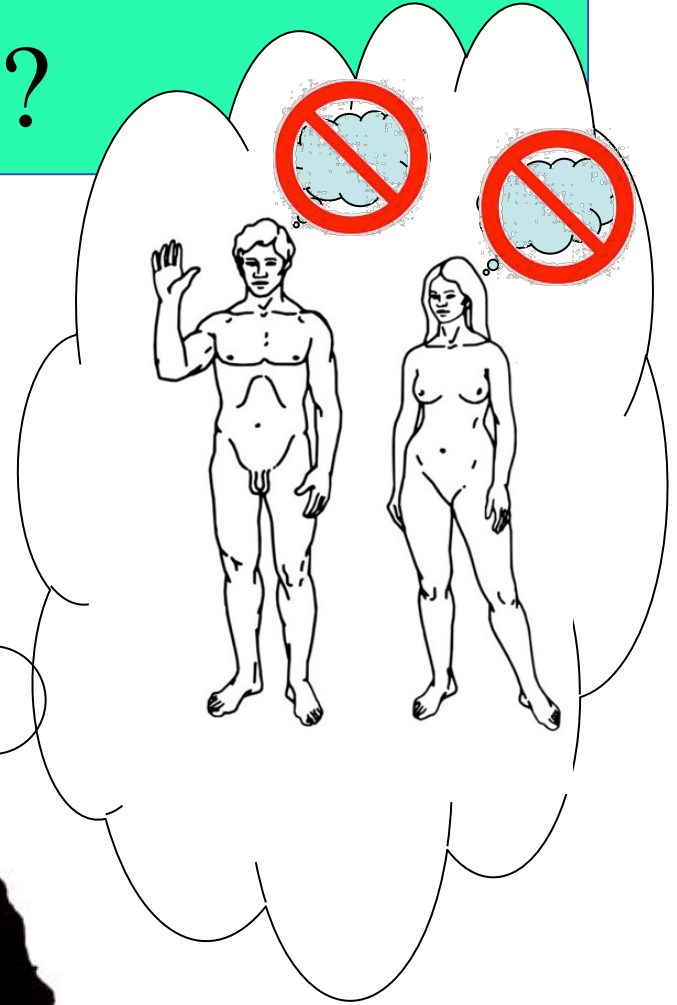
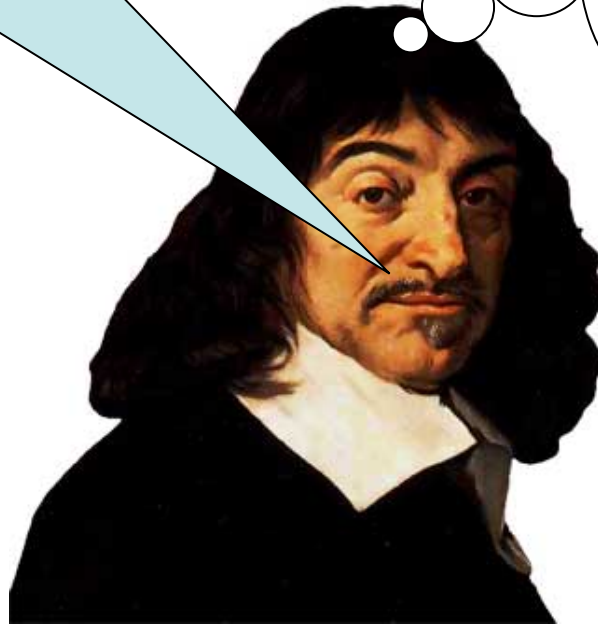
What am I?

Am I a **body**
with a **soul**?



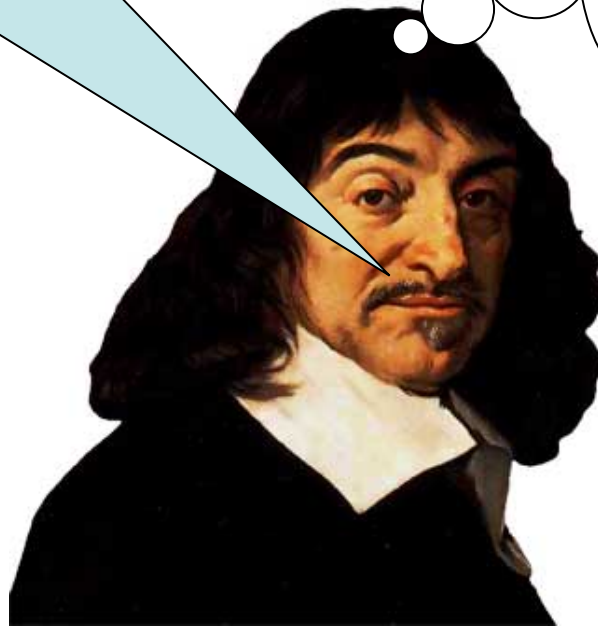
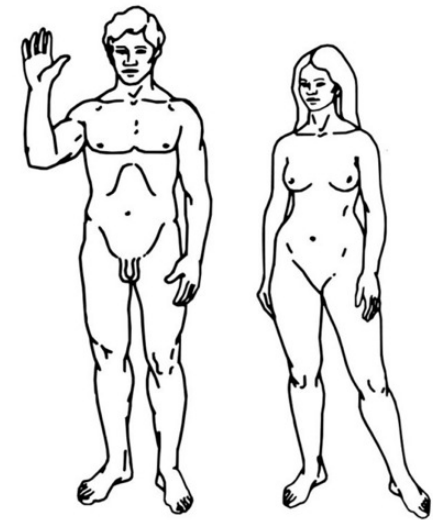
What am I?

But who
knows what
souls are?



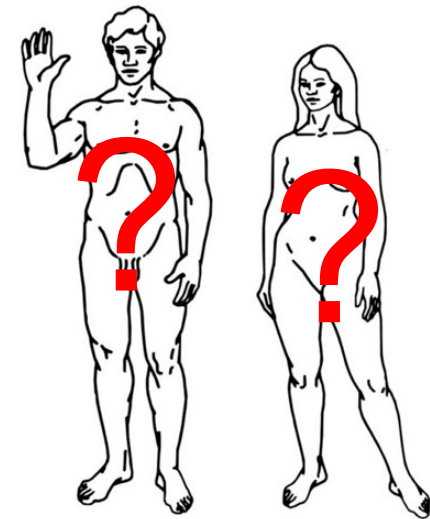
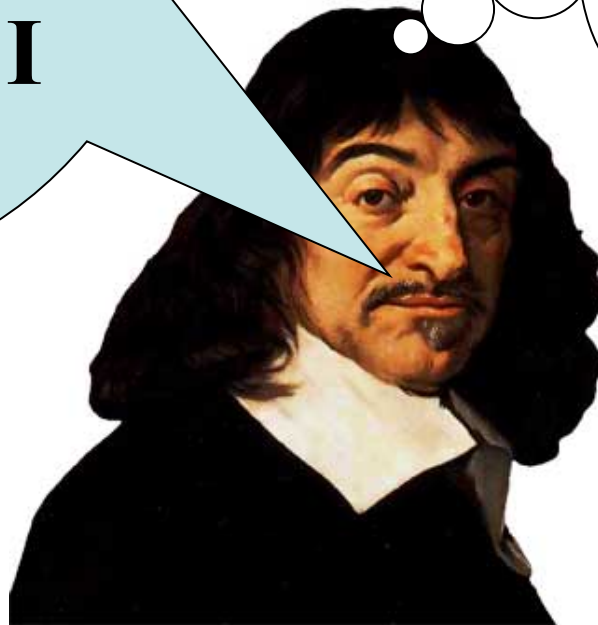
What am I?

So I must
just be a
body...



What am I?

... except
I'm not sure
there *are* any
bodies, even
though I'm
certain that **I**
exist.



What am I?

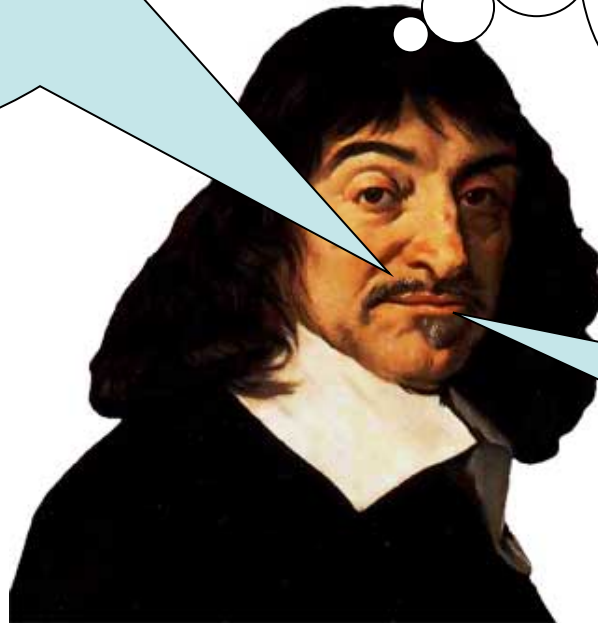
The *soul* is
what thinks,
so I must be
a *soul* ...

... I
must be
a soul



et voila!

... a *res*
cogitans.



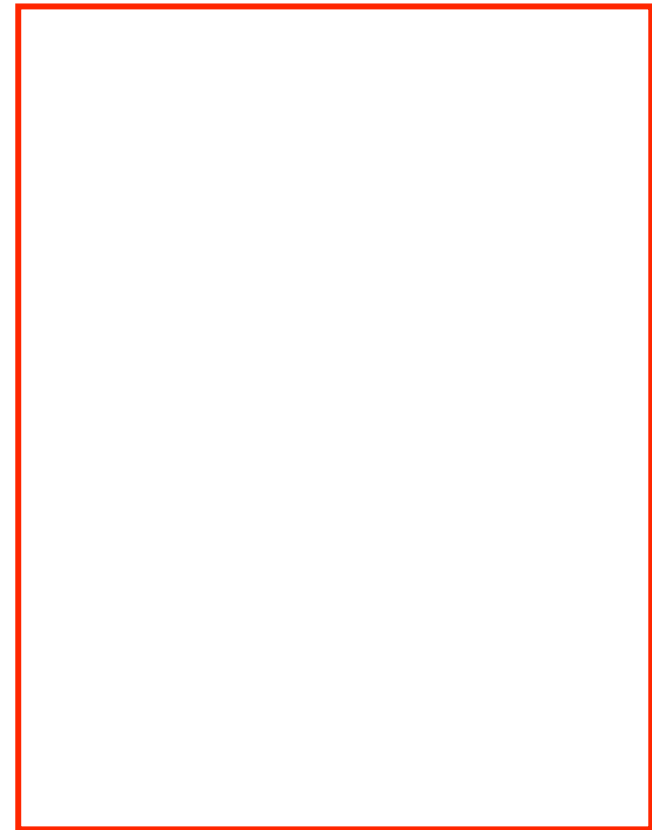
Rebuilding the World

Rebuilding the World

This is what I do
in Meditations
Three through Six.



What exists



What do I know exists?

I know that *I*
exist ...
(2nd Med.)

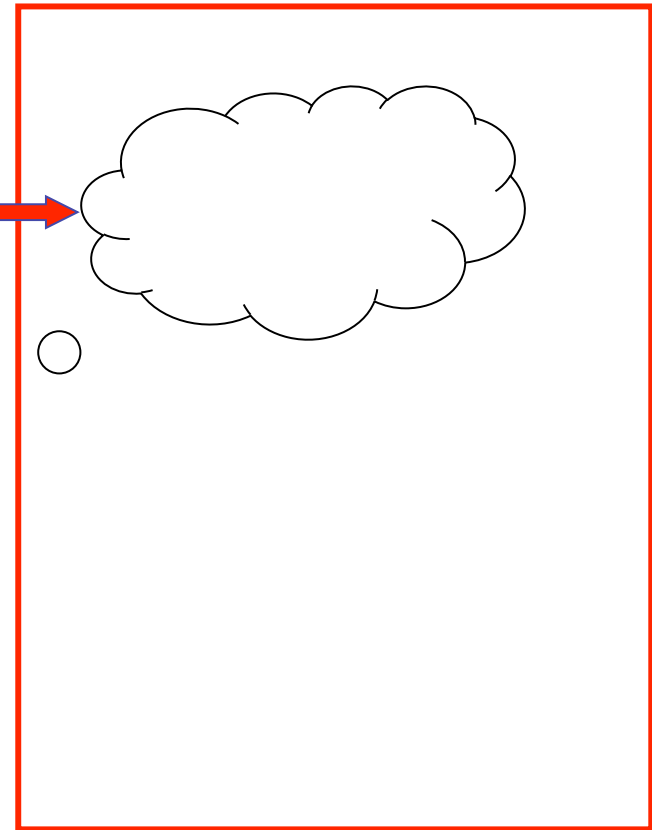
Latin
res: thing
cogitans: that thinks



Res cogitans



What exists

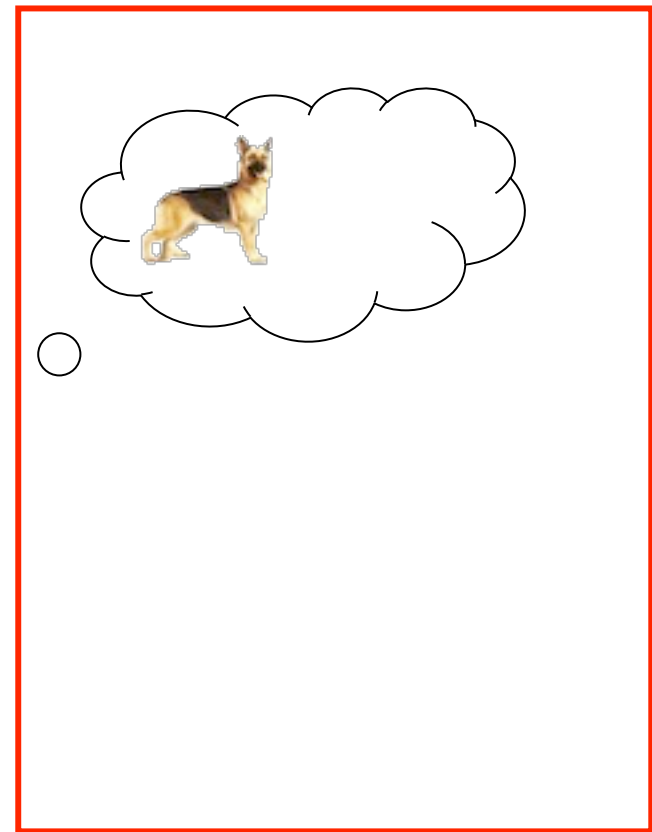


What do I know exists?

And I have *ideas*,
so they also exist
(as attributes of
my mind)...
(3rd Med.)



What exists

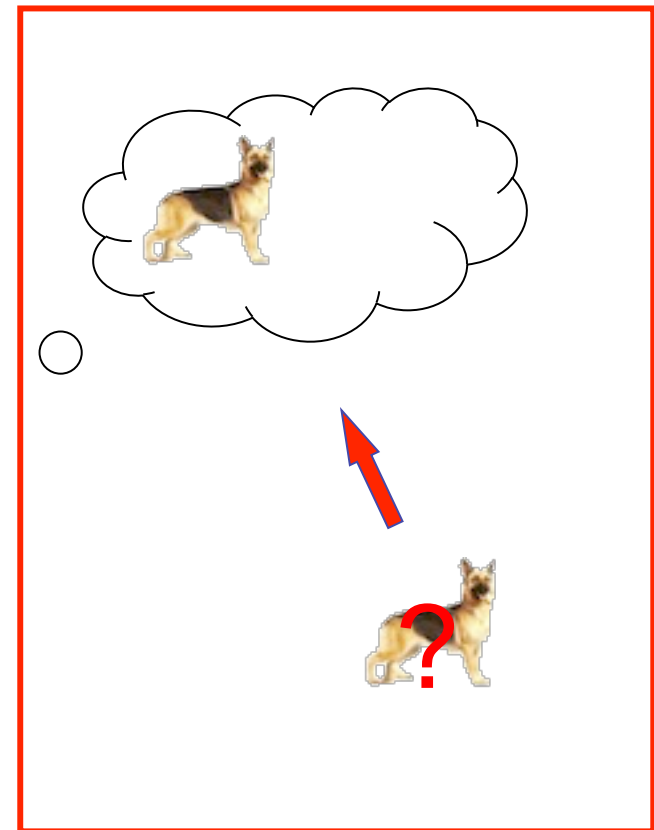


What do I know exists?

I have an idea of a dog, so that *idea* exists (even if the dog might not).
(3rd Med.)



What exists

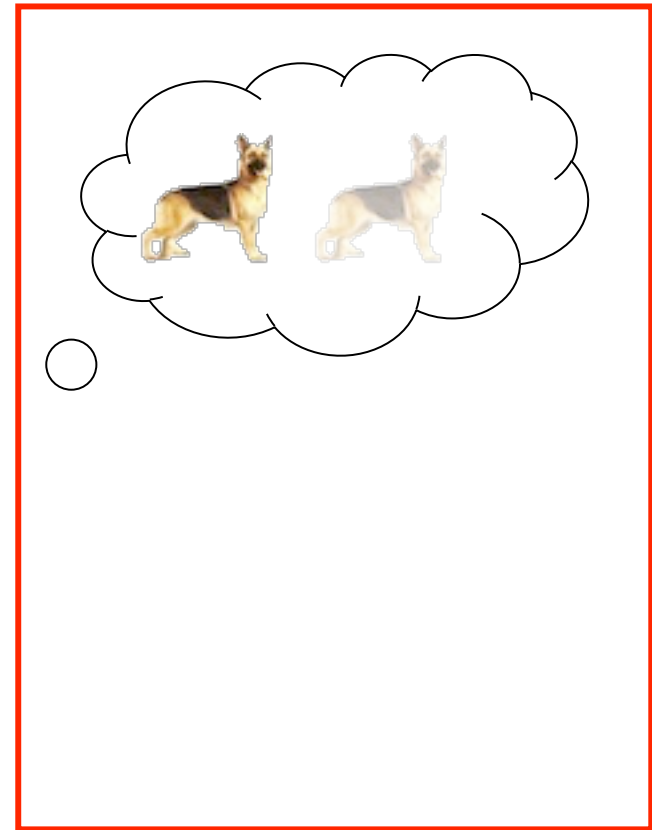


What do I know exists?

I also have ideas of ideas, like my *memory* of the dog (these are more faint).



What exists



What do I know exists?

And I have ideas of
numbers, unicorns,
angels, God
(3rd Med.)



What exists



What do I know exists?

And I have ideas of
numbers, unicorns,
angels, God
(3rd Med.)

But do I have reason
to think that any of
these also exist
outside my mind?



Turn to your Neighbor

Can Descartes be certain that any of these things existing as ideas in his mind *also* exist outside his mind?

Why or why not?

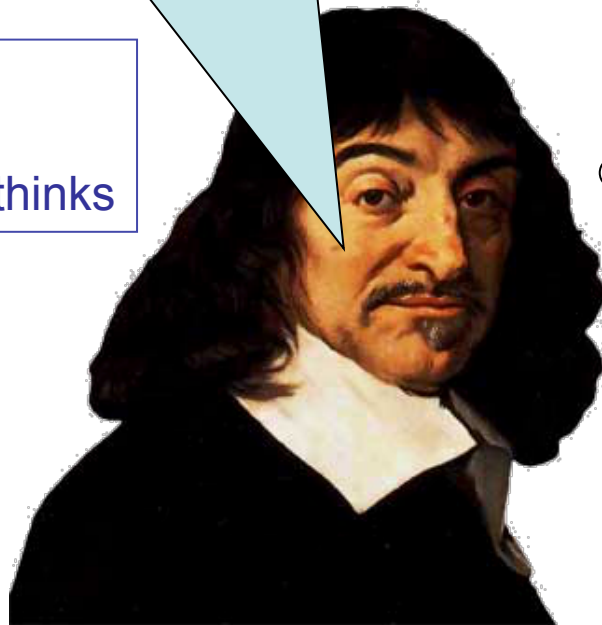
What exists



Descartes' Solution: God

I — as a *res cogitans*
— am powerful
enough to create all
these ideas, except
one...

Latin
res: thing
cogitans: that thinks

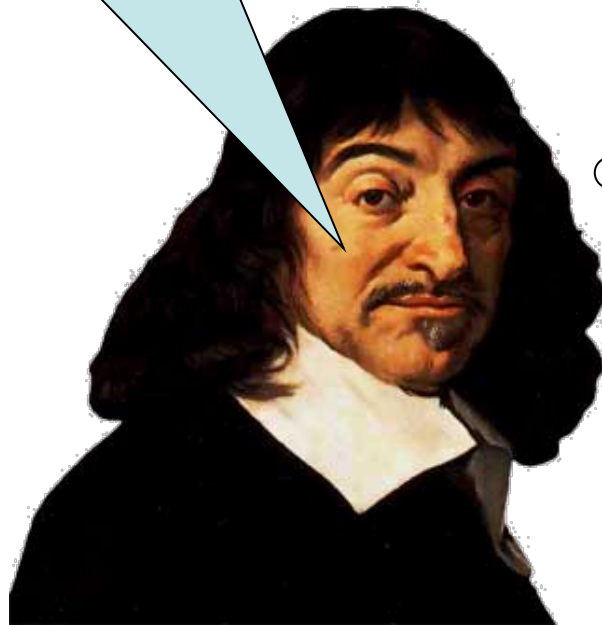


What exists



Descartes' Solution: God

... my idea of
God.
(3rd Med.)



What exists



Descartes' Solution: God

... my idea of
God.
(3rd Med.)

My *idea of God* is more
perfect than *me*, so I cannot
be its cause. The idea can't
come from *me*, so it has to
come from *God*.

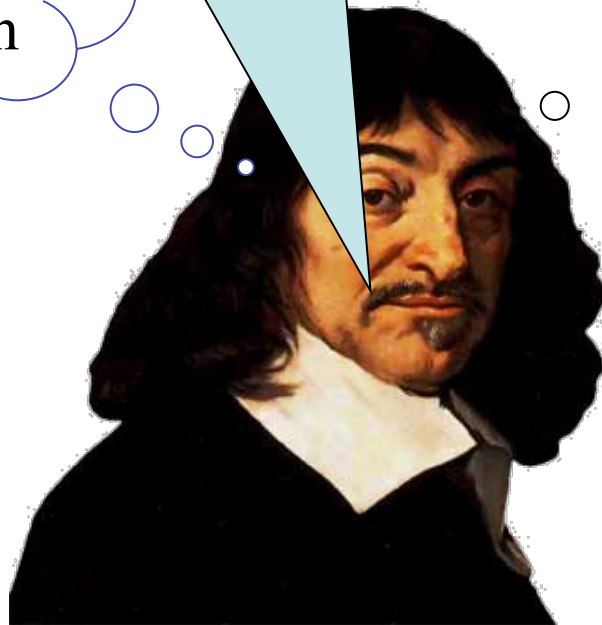


Descartes' Solution: God

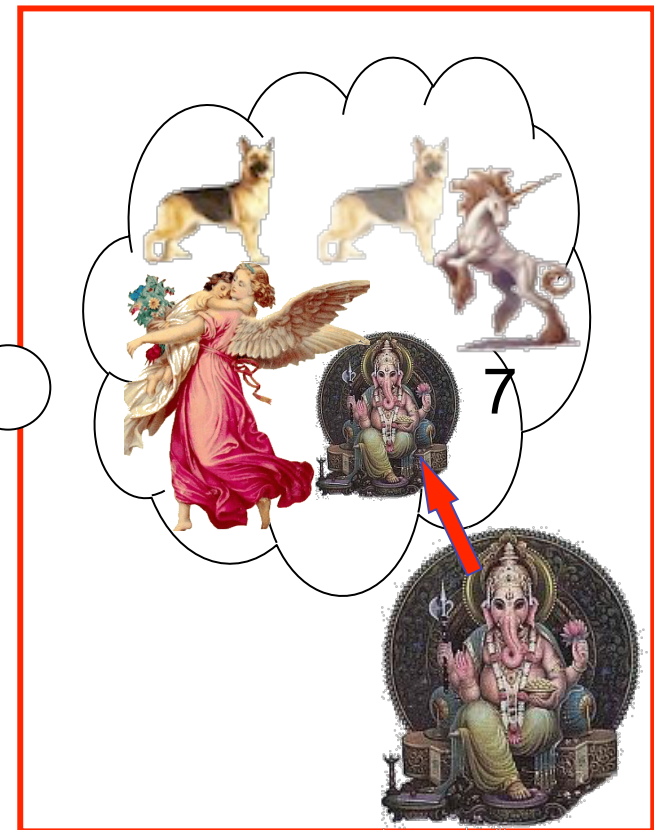
So I'm not alone!
God also exists!
(3rd Med.)

Farewell,
solipsism

Latin
solus: alone
ipse: self



What exists

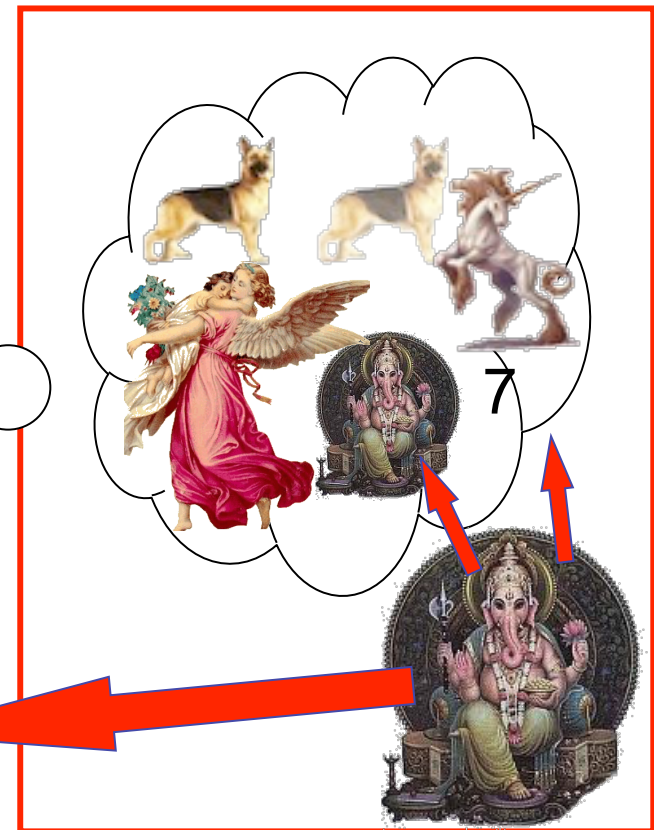


Descartes' Solution: God

And, God causes not
only my idea of God;
God also causes me!
(3rd Med.)



What exists



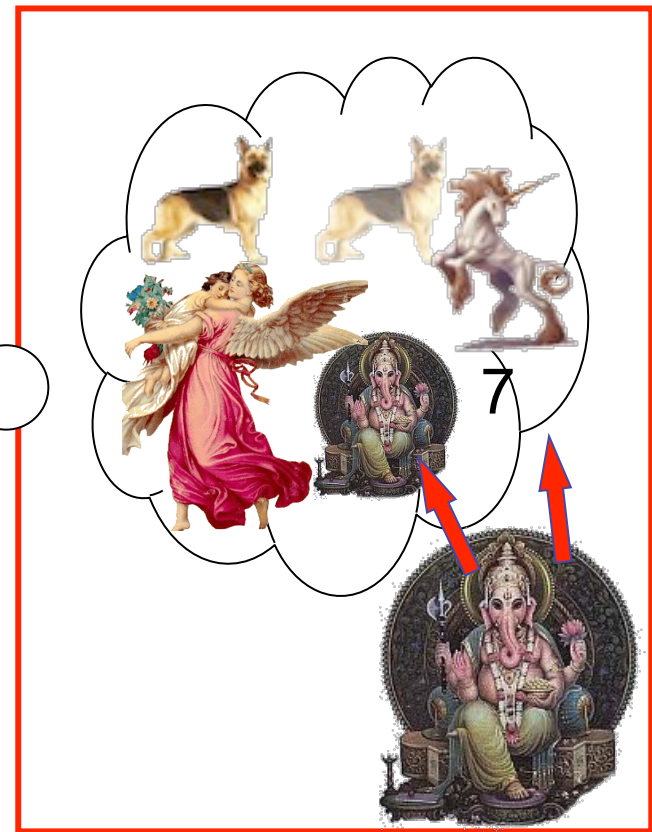
Problem of Human Error

But hold on...

If I'm the product of a perfect being, why am I imperfect? (4th Med.)



What exists



Problem of Human Error

I've made many mistakes
in the past. How is this
possible, if God made me?
(4th Med.)



$7+5=13!$

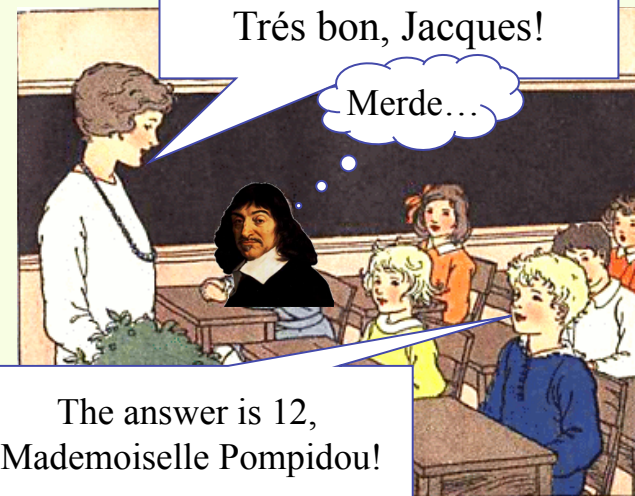
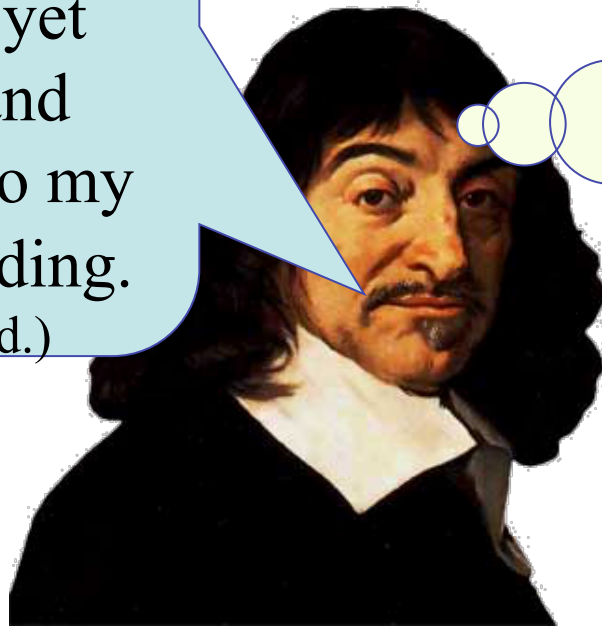
No, I'm sorry René, but you
are very wrong.

Merde...



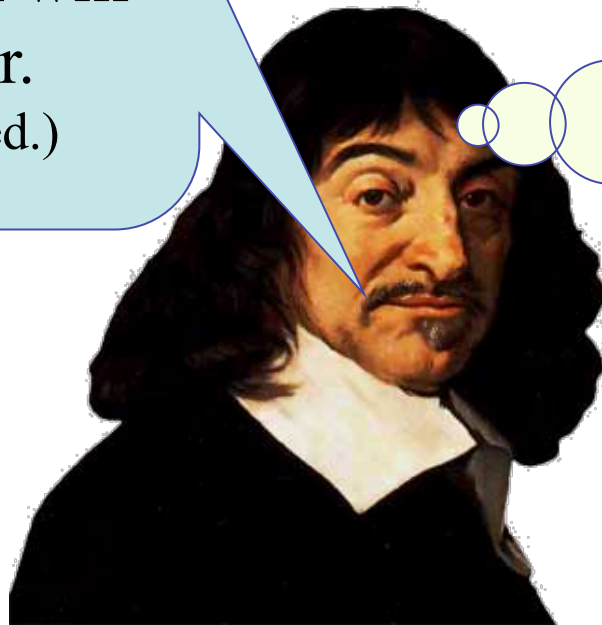
Problem of Human Error

Perhaps I had jumped to conclusions: I chose to believe what was not yet “clear and distinct” to my understanding.
(4th Med.)



Problem of Human Error

If I restrain my
will to believe
only what is
clear and
distinct, I will
not err.
(4th Med.)

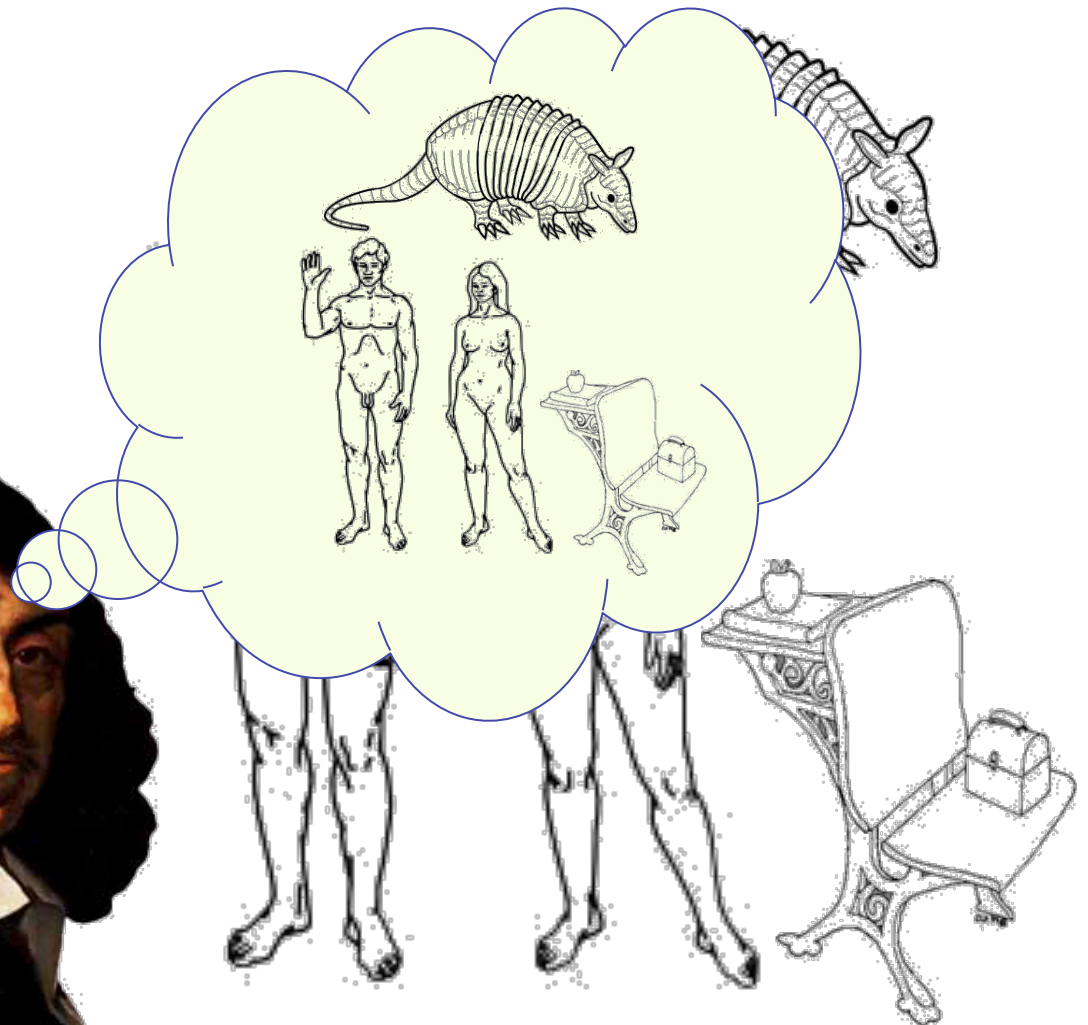
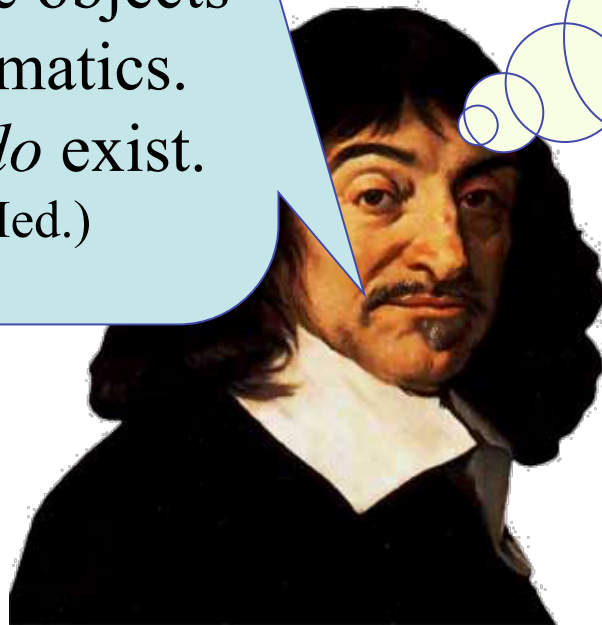


So remember, René: Don't
answer until the numbers
before you are "clear and
distinct"!



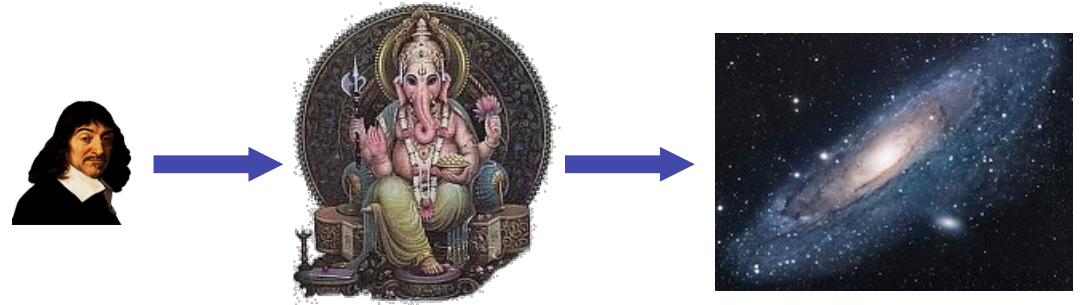
Re-claiming the External World

*Alors, I have clear and distinct ideas of objects outside my mind insofar as they are objects of mathematics. So they *do* exist. (5th Med.)*



Re-claiming the External World

So: First, I prove
that *I* exist, then
God, then the
physical universe.
All in six days!
Time for a nap ...
(5th-6th Med.)



Descartes' Order of Proof



Descartes at Rest

Cartesian Dualism

What Exists

Other than God,
there are two
kinds of
substance: mind
and matter

Substance (“what is real”)

Mind: whose essence is to think.

Matter: whose essence is to be extended.



...ts

And what am I? A strange combination of both mind and matter, soul and body.

Mind

...ce ("what is real")

Other there are kinds of substance: mind and matter

Mind: whose essence is to think.

Matter: whose essence is to be extended.



Matter

Descartes

Human beings are souls attached to bodies; all other animals are only bodies.

Mind

essence (“what is real”)

Other than there are kinds of substance: mind and matter

Mind: whose essence is to think.

Matter: whose essence is to be extended.

(No one home)

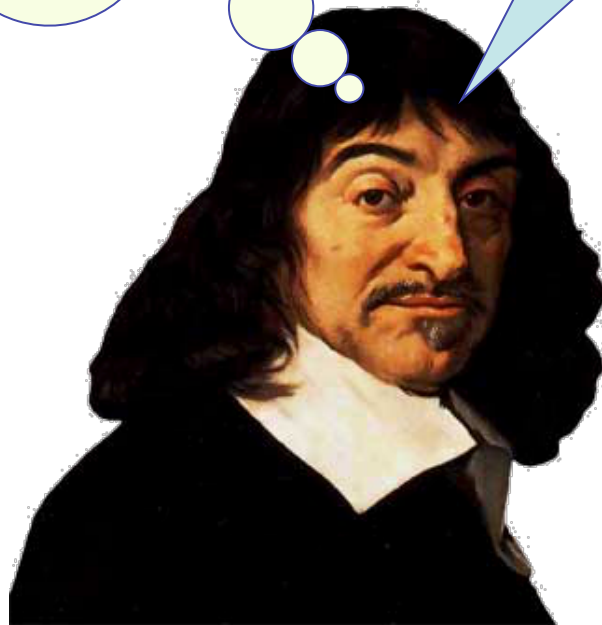


Matter

Mind-Body Interaction



Light strikes the retina on my eyes, causing a nervous excitation that travels to my brain, and from thence to my soul, whereupon I see you, dear Madame!

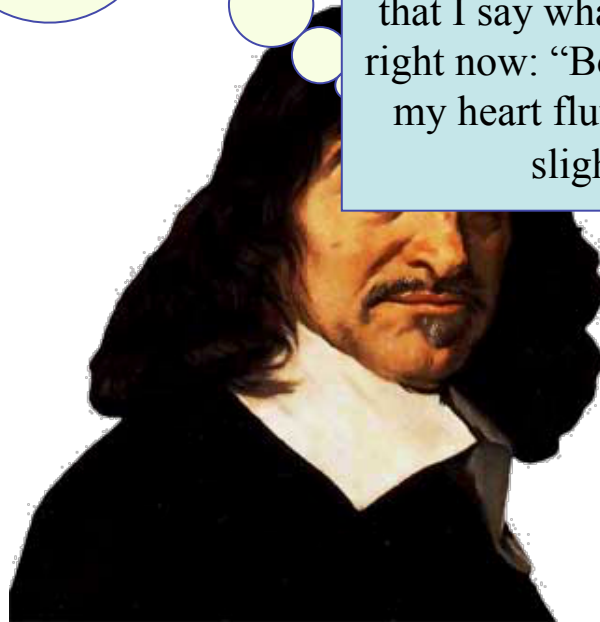


Mind-Body Interaction

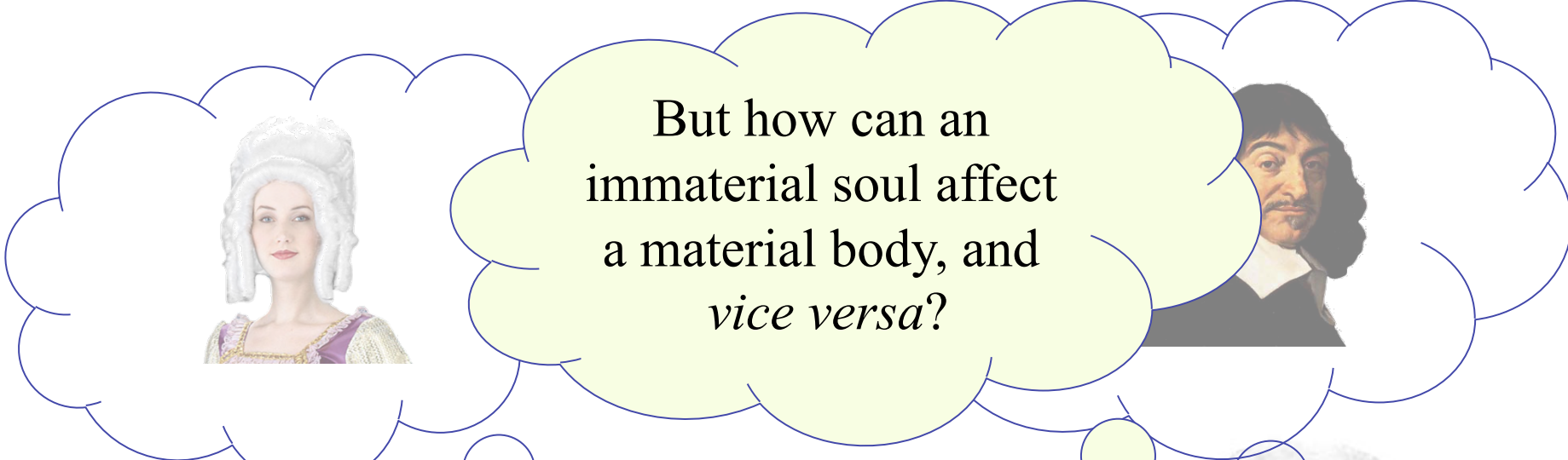


Light strikes the retina on my eyes, causing a nervous excitation that


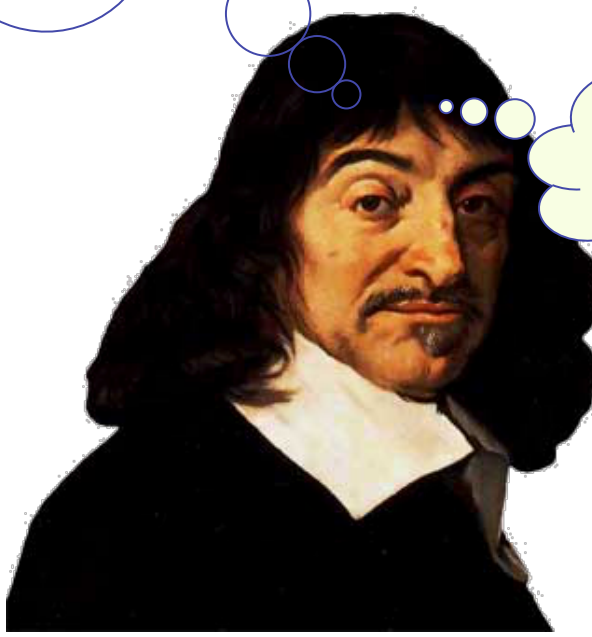
Having seen you, Monsieur, my soul responds with a nervous excitation to my brain, which travels to my lips and vocal chords, such that I say what I'm saying right now: "Bonjour!" And my heart flutters ever so slightly.



Mind-Body Interaction



But how can an immaterial soul affect a material body, and *vice versa*?



Nice wig...

Other Minds?

Ah, another
human being.
Or, at least a
human body...

Mind?

I see the *body* of a
sexy 17th century
philosopher; but
as for the
mind...?



Matter



The Pineal Gland

