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Intro to Philosophy

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Lesson 2

Descartes response questions

1. One of the reasons Descartes gave for doubting what he knew was that since the senses can be deceived, then trusting in them must be folly since, as he put it, being deceived by someone once is enough to not put trust back in that person again. The second reason was that if there is at least one reason to doubt something, then it must not be believed. This train of thought seems a bit iffy to me since almost nothing is that infallible save for God but that's Descartes's choice. The third reason he states is that since God is supremely good, these thoughts of doubt he is having must be the work of some demon of sorts, attempting to destabilize him day in and day out.
2. Descartes says that science and the other studies that rely on physical things save for math cannot be taken as truth or rather, infallible truth since science is based on what we observe with our senses, it's possible for our senses to have been deceived and everything we know about science could be a lie. Mathematics however, has a sense of truth to it that keeps it from being scrutinized as false since he says, even in his doubt of being and when he wakes up and goes to sleep, he still knows that $2 + 3$ is 5.
3. Descartes argues that a strong and unshakeable basis for knowledge is to question everything that can be brought into question and if it can be brought into question,

perceive it as false until he finds something that is unquestionable and infallible. He makes his case by stating that if he can question if he has a body or memories, than they themselves must be falsehoods leading him to question if his existence itself is a lie but this in itself is disproved when he states that he thinks and can convince himself of things. Therefore, he must exist and from this, he can reasonably say that this is something that is indisputable and his line of thoughts up to this point are a perfect example of it

Locke Response questions

1.

One of the reasons Locke believes there are no innate ideas is that if it were true, then men would not need to learn anything as all the knowledge they require is already imprinted on their souls. If this were then there must be some idea to which all men agree with which is impossible since everyone thinks differently.

2.

In Locke's argument, children and idiots are used as an abstract principle for logic and mathematics as well as an example arguing against innateness. Since they were used before as an example for innateness with Aristotle's example with the child, Locke argues that from what he has seen, it is still possible for children, who are still young in age to be able to grow and mature yet still have things outside of their knowledge. As for idiots, their very state of mind is an example against innate knowledge since if they did indeed have innate knowledge, they would not be in the state of mind they currently are. Idiots being insane people that is.

3.

Tabula rasa or white paper, is the idea that the human mind is a blank canvas and it cannot create ideas out of nothing and relies on external influences to create ideas or in this case, to add color to the white canvas.

4. What Locke means with sensation and perception is that they are the steps that lead to the brain developing experience. We comprehend the world through our senses of smell, touch, taste, sight and hearing. This is the sensation part of experience. After this comes perception through which we ponder upon what we have sensed through our 5 senses. It's kind of like how a computer works. We input something, the computer does the calculations, and then the computer gives us a response to what we input into it. When you think about it, the process of sensation and perception of humans is just like computers when you add in the final step of output which is the step in which we, the humans, respond to the sensations we have felt after perceiving them.