

Locke, "Qualities and Ideas"

1. Locke defines a "quality" of matter as any property or attribute that can be observed or perceived in a material object. Qualities can be either primary or secondary, depending on whether they are inherent to the object or are only perceived in relation to the observer.
2. Examples of Locke's Primary Qualities include shape, extension, and motion. Examples of Secondary Qualities include color, taste, and sound. Locke distinguishes Primary from Secondary Qualities by arguing that the former are intrinsic to the object and exist independent of any observer, while the latter are only experienced through the interaction of the object with the perceiving subject.
3. Locke uses the example of a snowball to illustrate the difference between primary and secondary qualities. He argues that the snowball's primary qualities, such as its size, shape, and texture, exist independently of the observer and can be measured and described objectively. On the other hand, the snowball's secondary qualities, such as its coldness and whiteness, are only experienced subjectively by the perceiver and do not necessarily correspond to any intrinsic properties of the snowball itself.

Berkeley, "Nothing Outside the Mind"

1. Berkeley defines existence as being perceived or known by a conscious mind. He argues that when we say something is "real" or that it "exists", we are simply affirming that it is being perceived or known by us or some other thinking being.
2. Based on his definition of existence, Berkeley argues that we should not believe in the existence of independent Primary Qualities because they are not directly perceivable by the senses and cannot be known or experienced except through the mediation of the mind. Therefore, he concludes that Primary Qualities are simply ideas in the mind and have no independent reality outside of it. This means that matter, which is traditionally understood to be composed of Primary Qualities, is also just a collection of ideas in the mind.
3. As a result of his critique of materialism, Berkeley argues that the ultimate source of all sensory experiences we receive is the mind itself. He contends that the mind actively constructs the world we perceive through the senses, and that there is no external world beyond the mind that exists independently of our perceptions. Therefore, he concludes that the world is ultimately mental in nature and that everything we experience is simply an idea in the mind.