

'The world is my world.' – Explain how the theory of solipsism arises in the context of the mind-body problem. Can the solipsist be refuted?

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The mind is the most connected, close and trusted thing to me compared with the other tangible things around me, for example, the car that I can see on the street with my eyes or the computer keyboard that I can touch right now with my fingers. Both the car and the keyboard are less close, connected or trustable to me compared with my mind. We can compare our mind to our best friend. I hang out with my best friend all the time. We eat, play and sleep together. We create a strong bond of trust for each other. My mind has stayed with me since I was born. I fully trust and connect with it. When I see the apple on the table, I use my eyes to receive the picture of that apple. I can notice the apple on the table through the message from my eyes to my mind. So, I am not directly connected with the apple itself. If we only trust or believe in what is directly connected with us, we will doubt everything else. Finally, only our mind is real for us since it is the only thing that we directly connect with. The other things will become unreal for us, which means the outside world.

Can the solipsist be refuted?

Today, we follow our daily routine almost automatically. We never doubt everything that we participate with may be unreal. One of the strongest reasons to support this idea is because we all have the same ability. If I and others can notice the chair in the middle of the room, we can exchange information about the chair with each other. After I receive information from others and compare it with mine I can conclude that the others should have the same ability to perceive that chair as me. So, if I and my mind are real the others should be real, too.

But what if I can't perceive the chair anymore? If I go to sleep and enter my absolute own world, only I and my mind exist in my world. I cut all my perception channels off. I can't see anything through my eyes. I can't hear anything through my ears. Also, I can't touch or smell anything through my hands or nose. Is that chair still in the middle of that room? Does the whole world still continue to exist or be real out there? Can I say, when I sleep, only I and my mind are real? As Berkeley says, if the thing isn't in anybody's perception it is still in God's perception. So, it still continues to exist even if no one perceives it. If I go to work at my office, at the lunch time I may start to doubt if my computer is still in the same place on my table when I left my house in the morning. Why should I believe that my own computer that I use every day is still there on my desk at home? I may suddenly have the picture of my computer on my desk at home in my mind. Does that picture make my computer at home become real and exist? No, it does not. I believe because of five years of experience that every day when I go home I always see it in the same place. That is the evidence that makes me believe. So, the thing should still continue to be real even if it is not in our perception and we believe it because of our experience.

Another idea that can argue against solipsism is the idea that everything in the world is just substance. Everything is just some form of substance. As a human I have many important systems that work together in my body. I have a neural system that makes me feel and able

to perceive information from outside into my brain and my consciousness. A table also makes from numbers of substance as well. It has substance in the form of a table. It is real the same as myself since we are the same substance. Buddhism believes that we as humans all come from the soil. After we die we all go back to the soil as in the beginning. It means we as humans are all the same substance as soil. We are just forming to be human from substance. When we die, a form of human will be destroyed and all the substance in us will go back to the original state as in the beginning.