

DESCARTES

A Guide for the Perplexed

Justin Skirry



blackwellpublishers.com

CONTENTS

<i>Acknowledgements</i>	ix
<i>Abbreviations</i>	xi
Introduction	1
1 Method	6
1.1 Criticism of the syllogism	6
1.2 Geometric method	9
1.3 Intuition	11
1.4 Deduction	13
1.5 Enumeration	16
1.6 Analysis and synthesis	19
1.7 <i>A priori</i> and <i>a posteriori</i> demonstration	23
1.8 The method of doubt	24
2 Mind and Idea	29
2.1 'I think, therefore I am'	29
2.2 What am I?	33
2.3 Thought	35
2.4 Ideas	38
2.5 The mind or soul	39
2.6 The mind is better known than the body	41
3 Metaphysics	45
3.1 Theory of distinction	45
3.2 Substance and mode	49
3.3 Attributes	55
3.4 Abstraction and universals	57
3.5 Degrees of reality	59
3.6 The causal adequacy principle	62

CONTENTS

4	Religion	66
4.1	Faith and reason	66
4.2	The causal arguments for God's existence	69
4.3	Objections to the causal arguments	74
4.4	The ontological argument for God's existence	78
4.5	The immortality of the soul	83
4.6	The Eucharist	85
5	Knowledge	91
5.1	<i>Scientia</i>	91
5.2	Formal and material falsity	92
5.3	God's non-deceiving nature	95
5.4	The source of error	96
5.5	How to avoid error and God's guarantee	99
5.6	Proof of an external world	101
5.7	The Cartesian Circle	103
6	Physics	109
6.1	The condemnation of Galileo	109
6.2	Final causes and substantial forms	111
6.3	The rejection of final causes	114
6.4	The rejection of Atomism	117
6.5	Space and place	119
6.6	The nature of motion	123
6.7	The laws of motion	126
6.8	The earth's motion	129
7	Human Nature	131
7.1	The Conceptual Argument	131
7.2	The Divisibility/Indivisibility Argument	133
7.3	The mind-body problem	135
7.4	The Sailor in a Ship Argument	138
7.5	The modes of mind-body union	140
7.6	Elizabeth's (and Gassendi's) mistake	143
7.7	The mind-body relation	144
7.8	Human life	146
8	Sensations, Passions and Morality	151
8.1	The physiology of sensation	151
8.2	Three grades of sensory response	154
8.3	Passions	155
8.4	The provisional moral code	160

CONTENTS

8.5	<i>Générosité</i>	163
8.6	Conclusion	165
	<i>Notes</i>	167
	<i>Bibliography</i>	175
	<i>Index</i>	179