Epistemology

How Do We Recognise Truth?

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As long as human beings have existed, they have asked what is true.

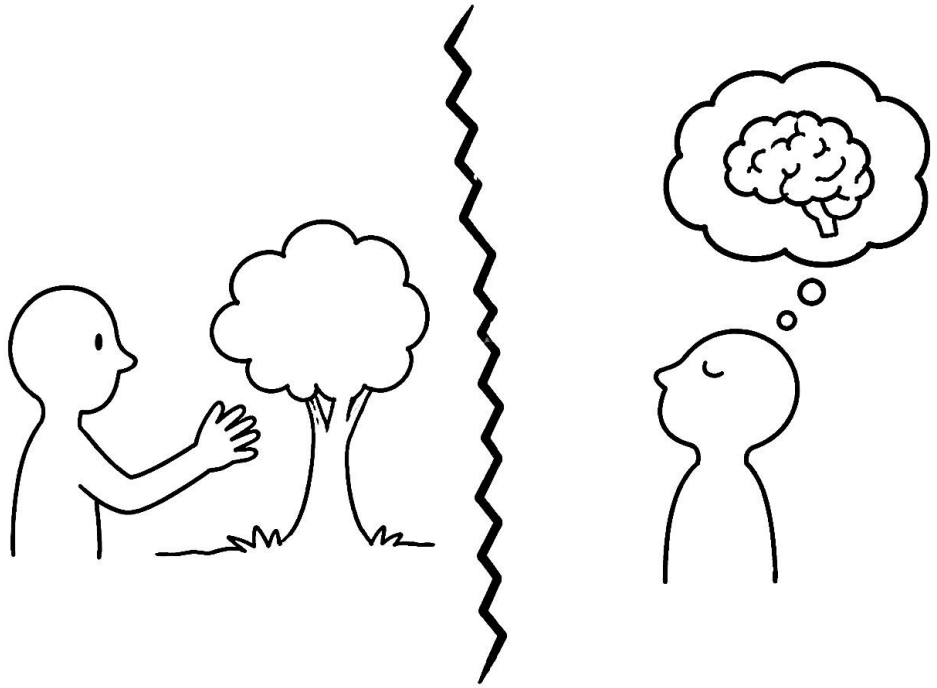
There have always been many theories about what is true.

There have also always been epistemological theories about how we can recognise truth.

Separation Creates Uncertainty

Descartes' separation of body and mind created uncertainty about whether what we perceive through our physical senses is actually true.

- It could also be a product of our mind, something imagined or invented.



Sensory Illusion

Yet our senses can deceive us.

- Sensory experience is therefore an uncertain matter…
- Perhaps we should use our reason instead.

The Subjective Mind as the Starting Point

Rationalism established subjectivity as the starting point of all reflection. In doing so, Descartes ushered in modernity.

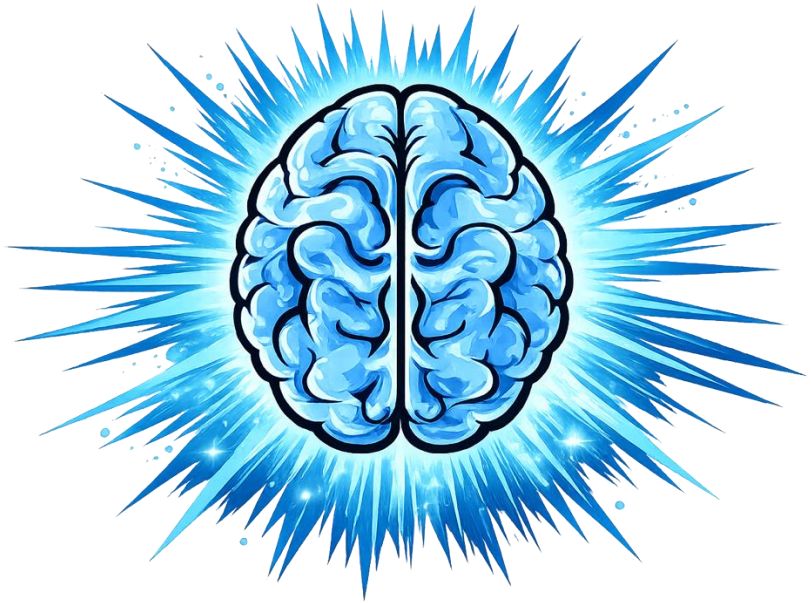
- He declared our subjective consciousness, our rational mind, to be the Archimedean point: the starting point for our recognition of truth.



Our Consciousness Does Not Stand ‘On Its Own’

We are always conscious of something.

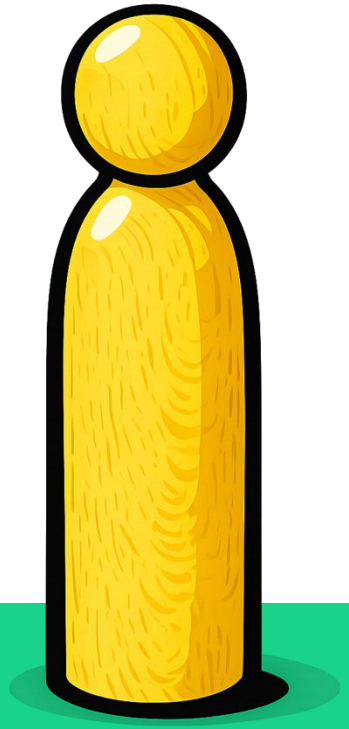
Our consciousness has directed intentionality, an intention.



Epoché: Absence of Intention 1

We are present, without intention.

- We do not intend to recognise or understand anything.
- **We widen our gaze and perceive what is greater:** the whole, the connections, the idea.



We pause and look.