

# Contents

- 1 The Question 3
  - 1.1 What Are We? 3
  - 1.2 Some Answers 6
  - 1.3 'We' 8
  - 1.4 Rephrasing the Question 10
  - 1.5 Must There Be an Answer? 13
  - 1.6 How the Question Differs from Others 15
  - 1.7 Why It Matters 19
  
- 2 Animals 23
  - 2.1 Animalism 23
  - 2.2 What Is an Animal? 27
  - 2.3 The Thinking-Animal Problem 29
  - 2.4 Are There Animals? 30
  - 2.5 Can Animals Think? 31
  - 2.6 Too Many Thinkers 35
  - 2.7 Creative Linguistics 37
  - 2.8 Animalism and Our Identity over Time 39
  - 2.9 Further Objections 44
  
- 3 Constitution 48
  - 3.1 Material Things Constituted by Animals 48
  - 3.2 The Clay-Modeling Puzzle 52
  - 3.3 The Replacement Puzzle and the Amputation Puzzle 59
  - 3.4 Thinking Animals Again 60

- 3.5 When Does Constitution Occur? 65
- 3.6 What Determines Our Boundaries? 71
  
- 4 Brains 76
  - 4.1 The Brain View 76
  - 4.2 The Thinking-Brain Problem 78
  - 4.3 The Brain View and Our Identity over Time 84
  - 4.4 Thinking-Subject Minimalism 87
  - 4.5 Direct Involvement 91
  - 4.6 Homunculism 94
  
- 5 Temporal Parts 99
  - 5.1 Four-Dimensional Hunks of Matter 99
  - 5.2 Temporary Intrinsic 102
  - 5.3 Lumps and Statues 106
  - 5.4 The Problem of Modal Incompatibility 108
  - 5.5 Puzzles of Personal Identity 114
  - 5.6 Thinking Animals and Other Worries 119
  - 5.7 Thinking Stages 122
  - 5.8 The Stage View 125
  
- 6 Bundles 129
  - 6.1 Bundle Theories 129
  - 6.2 Traditional Arguments for the Bundle View 133
  - 6.3 Personal Identity and the Bundle View 135
  - 6.4 Can Thoughts Think? 139
  - 6.5 Thinking Animals Once More 141
  - 6.6 Bundles of Universals 143
  - 6.7 The Program View 145
  
- 7 Souls 150
  - 7.1 Immaterialism 150
  - 7.2 Traditional Arguments for Immaterialism 151
  - 7.3 The Paradox of Increase 153
  - 7.4 The Cost of Materialism 157
  - 7.5 Objections to Immaterialism 164
  - 7.6 Compound Dualism 168
  - 7.7 Hylomorphism 171
  - 7.8 Simple Materialism 176

8	Nihilism	180
8.1	We Do Not Exist	180
8.2	Is Nihilism Mad?	183
8.3	Is Nihilism Self-Refuting?	185
8.4	Unity and Simplicity	186
8.5	Paraphrase: The Mentalistic Strategy	193
8.6	Paraphrase: The Atomistic Strategy	197
8.7	What It Would Mean If We Did Not Exist	202
9	What Now?	211
9.1	Some Results	211
9.2	Some Opinions	213
9.3	Animalism and the Thinking-Parts Problem	215
9.4	Animalism and the Clay-Modeling Puzzle	219
9.5	Theories of Composition	223
9.6	Composition and What We Are	228
9.7	Brutal Composition	232
	References	237
	Index	245