

Contents

Introduction by Bernard Williams	page vii
Chronological table of Descartes' life and works	xix
Translator's preface	xxi
<i>Meditations on First Philosophy</i>	I
Dedicatory letter to the Sorbonne	3
Preface to the reader	6
Synopsis of the following six Meditations	9
First Meditation: <i>What can be called into doubt</i>	12
Second Meditation: <i>The nature of the human mind, and how it is better known than the body</i>	16
Third Meditation: <i>The existence of God</i>	24
Fourth Meditation: <i>Truth and falsity</i>	37
Fifth Meditation: <i>The essence of material things, and the existence of God considered a second time</i>	44
Sixth Meditation: <i>The existence of material things, and the real distinction between mind and body</i>	50
<i>Selections from the Objections and Replies</i>	
On Meditation One	
<i>The rejection of previous beliefs</i>	63
<i>The reliability of the senses</i>	63
<i>The dreaming argument</i>	65
<i>Certainty in dreams</i>	66
On Meditation Two	
<i>Cogito ergo sum ('I am thinking, therefore I exist')</i>	68
<i>Sum res cogitans ('I am a thinking thing')</i>	69
<i>The nature of thought</i>	74
<i>The piece of wax</i>	76
On Meditation Three	
<i>Innate ideas</i>	78
<i>The idea of God</i>	80
<i>Objective reality</i>	84

<i>God, author of my existence</i>	86
On Meditation Four	
<i>The cause of error</i>	90
<i>The indifference of the will</i>	92
On Meditation Five	
<i>Whether God's essence implies his existence</i>	95
<i>Clear and distinct perception and the 'Cartesian Circle'</i>	102
On Meditation Six	
<i>The real distinction between mind and body</i>	107
Index	117