

HUME RAP

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Hume said, "all ideas, especially abstract ones, are naturally faint and obscure"¹

So he gives us a mental tour.

It starts with experience of impressions, "the most lively of our perceptions"

the key is to figure out the degree of force and vivacity

it's not a difference of kind but one of degree

you see ideas are less lively

the most lively thought is inferior to the dullest sensations from the in- or exterior

here is the lesson: every idea you've ever had can be traced back to its corresponding impression.

Nothing seems more unbounded than dreams, children imagine themselves to be kings and queens, we can think about anything

and as the body is material, so it is confined but there are no limitations placed on the mind

you can almost think yourself outside of space and time

brand new ideas completely original

but as it turns out this is fictional

Hume confessed: "the liberty that our mind seems to possess is actually confined by narrow limits"

here are the tenants: "the creative power of the mind amounts to no more than the faculty of compounding, transposing, augmenting, diminishing material afforded us by the senses and experience"

a bold claim, Hume is serious, a bold empiricist

¹ All quotes are from David Hume's, *An Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding*, Section II (pages 96-100). All lyrics directly or indirectly reference Section II of *Enquiry*.

then he drops his copy thesis, which is:

"all our ideas or more feeble perceptions are copies of our impressions"

that is, every idea can be traced back to an experience, and that's a brute fact

given this general maxim, you can deconstruct ideas as broad as god into fractions

if we take god to mean an "omnipotent, infinite intelligent, omnibenevolent, being that must exist, containing all perfections: those ideas arise from reflections of our own mental operations and augmenting without limitation those ideas of goodness, wisdom and salvation"

But the general maxim might not be true depending on what's proved by the missing shade of blue

is it possible to have an idea with no ties to experience?

Hume is justified to be so curious.

He said the missing shade can be imagined, wait what just happened?

He presented a counter example but dismissed it with ease

can someone help me understand this please?

Hume's a scientist, his copy thesis his hypothesis

one counterexample doesn't warrant rejection of everything said in the #2 section

so should we excuse so as not to misuse this objection?

simply assume Hume wasn't confused by his own introspection

He said, "this instance is so singular, it shouldn't make us feel insecure.

It is scarcely worth our observing, nothing out the ordinary is occurring"

The general maxim Hume's preserving

"when we entertain therefore any suspicion of a philosophical term based on conviction, you need only ask one question:

what's the idea's corresponding impression?"

REFERENCES

Hume, David. *An Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding*. Ed. Tom Beauchamp. New York: Oxford University Press, 1999. 96-100. Print.