

# Are We Two Things or One?

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Classical Greek Era

Aristotle: **Human** with psyche (life forces).

Christians Era: St. Augustine

Human is **Soul + body**

Age of Reason: Descartes

Human is **Mind + body**

Twentieth Century: Physiologist

Human is **Brain + body**

Twentieth Century: Experimental Psychology

Human is single entity.

**Person** (with Experience)

## Timeline

400BC

**Classical Greek Era**  
(Aristotle: Human with Psyche)

100BC

100AD

**Christian Era**  
(St. Augustine: Soul/Body)

1600AD

**Age of Reason**  
(Descartes: Mind/Body)

1900AD

**Technology Era**  
(Brain/Body)  
**Research Era**  
(Person with experience)

*Aristotle's On The Psyche*

Body with life forces



## Being with Psyche

*Aristotle*

Psyche: The life Forces

1. Nutritive
2. Sensitive
3. Rational

A person is one thing, not two.

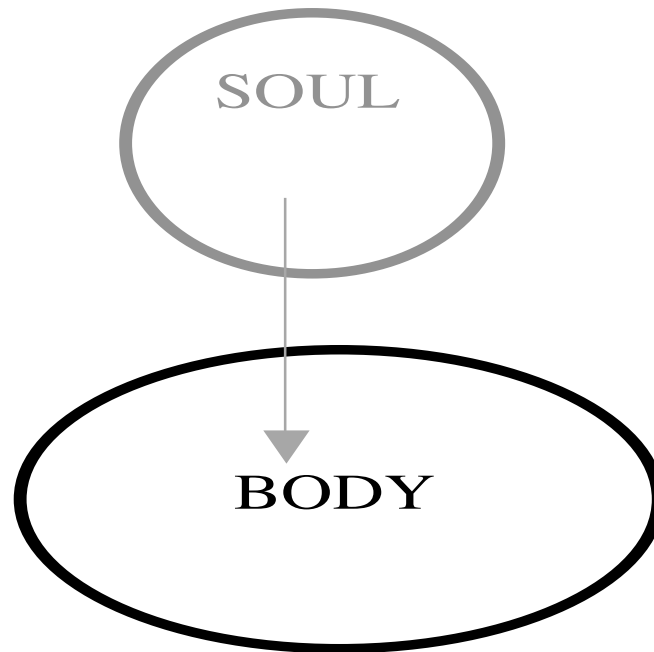
No controlling soul.

No controlling mind.

No controlling brain.

## Christian Era (100AD-1600AD):

(READ) Saint Augustine (354-430AD): "If the soul and reason do not themselves obey God, as God has commanded them to serve Him, they have no proper authority over the body and the vices."



# Soul/Body Dualism

Based in faith

## Christian Model

Soul: Immortal spirit  
Created by God  
Controls the body  
Psychological events occur in the soul

Philosophical problem: spirit-soul controls  
physical body!

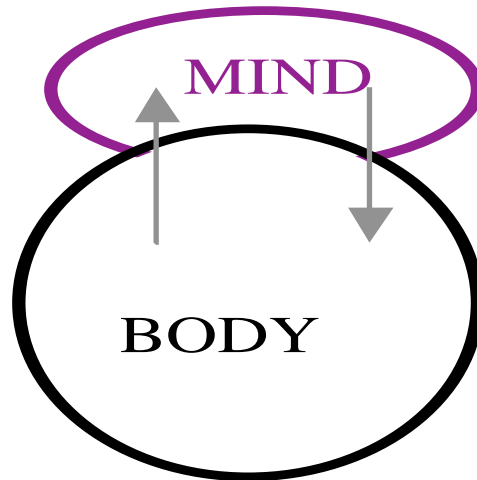
Circular explanations:

“Possessed by demons.”

“Guided by God.”

**Age of Reason (1600–1900):**

**(READ)** Descartes (1596–1650) According to Descartes, the mind and body are connected by and interact through the pineal gland at the base of the brain--the junction between spirit and matter. "...I am not only lodged in my body as a pilot of a vessel, but that I am very closely united to it, and so to speak, so intermingle with it that I seem to compose with it one whole." "[Nevertheless] there is a great difference between mind and body..."



## Mind/Body Dualism

Based in reason

### Interaction Model

Mind: Mortal spirit.

Develops through sensory experience.

Interacts with the body.

Connection at pineal gland (Descartes).

Psychological events occur in the mind.

**Philosophical problem: Spirit-mind connected to physical body!**

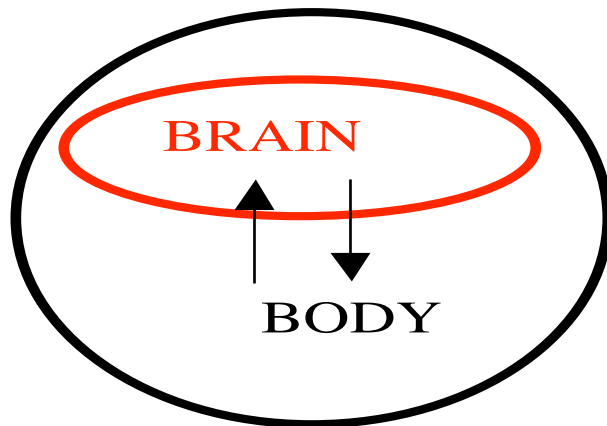
**Circular explanations:**

“He made up his mind.”

“He has an evil mind.”

## Technology Era (20th Century):

**(READ) Brain** began to replace the soul and mind as controller of the body. Charles Levinthal's Introduction to Physiological Psychology (1990) states: "The essential feature of the nervous system is its ability to process information. It brings information in from the outside environment, interprets that information, remembers some of it, and in turn controls the body that must respond to that environment..." This presents the brain as a bio-computer with artificial intelligence (AI) software.



## **Brain/Body Dualism**

Based in reduction

### **Bio-robot Model**

Brain: Biochemical computer.

Programmed through the senses.

Controls the body.

Psychological events occur in the brain.

**Philosophical problem: Part controls the whole!**

**Circular Explanations ("Physiologizing"):**

1. Chemical imbalance.

2. Chomsky's LAD.

**Reductionistic explanations:**

"Thinking is neural activity in the cortex."

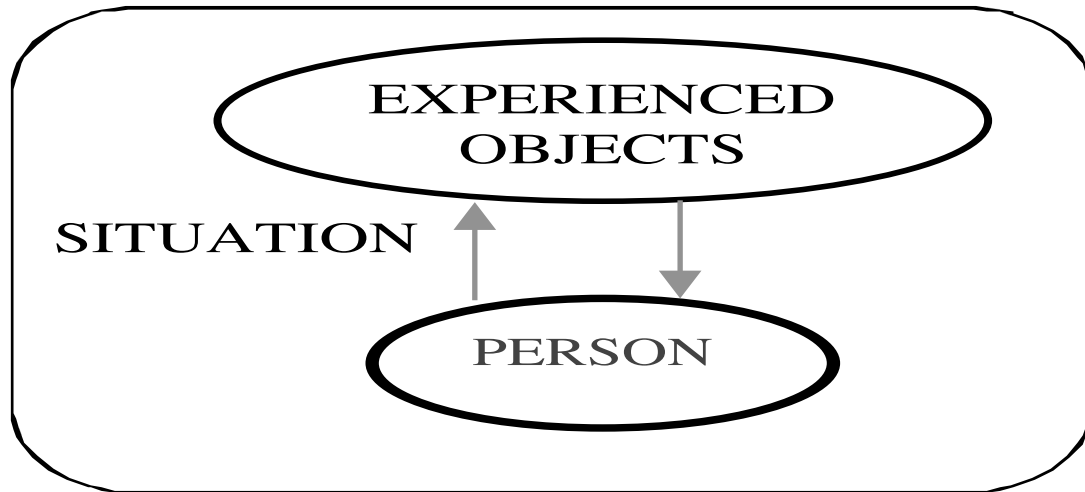
"Hunger is neural activity in the hypothalamus."

## Research Era (20th Century)

We made full circle back toward Aristotelian monism.

The human is:

1. unitary and indivisible (one living organism, a person).
2. an animal capable of complex reasoning and communication.
3. Moreover, the human is capable of sublime and exalted achievements and experiences—for example: the creation and appreciation of philosophy, math, music, science, art, etc.



## Psychological Monism

Research based

### Interactive Model

**Person:** Adjusts to and interacts with objects of experience.

**Philosophical problem:** Where are psychological events?

**Predictive explanations:**

1. Experience establishes possibilities.
2. Situation sets the probabilities.