

Meditations And Other Metaphysical Writings Rene Descartes

a completely new translation of the works of descartes is intended to replace the haldane and ross edition first published in 1911 all material from that edition is translated here with a number of other texts crucial for understanding cartesian philosophy

the meditations on first philosophy is one of descartes s best known works and one of the most influential philosophical texts ever written this treatise offers descartes metaphysical views on the relationship between the mind and thought the nature of reality and how accumulated knowledge and our experiences affect us first published

in 1641 the work consists of six meditations on the following topics the dubiousness of thoughts and assumptions as descartes puts it what can be called into doubt the nature of the human mind the existence of god truth versus falsehood the essence of material things and finally the difference between mind and body for anyone interested in the study of philosophy this is an essential and illuminating read this volume also includes the great philosopher s discourse on the method a brilliant discussion of reasoning and experimentation which helped establish the foundations of the scientific process a selection of enlightening essays from his principles of philosophy and a classic introduction by frank sewall

the meditations one of the key texts of western philosophy is the most widely studied of all descartes writings this authoritative translation by john cottingham taken from the much acclaimed three volume cambridge edition of the philosophical writings of descartes is based upon the best available texts and presents descartes central metaphysical writings in clear readable modern english as well as the complete text of the meditations the reader will find a thematic abridgement of the objections and replies which were originally published with the meditations containing descartes replies to his critics these extracts specially selected for the present volume indicate the main philosophical difficulties which occurred to descartes contemporaries and show how descartes developed and clarified his arguments in response this edition contains a new comprehensive introduction to descartes philosophy by john cottingham and the classic introductory essay on the meditations by bernard williams

these two volumes provide a translation of the philosophical works of descartes based on the best available latin and french texts they are intended to replace the only reasonably comprehensive selection of his works in english by haldane and ross first published in 1911 all the works included in that edition are translated here together with a number of additional texts crucial for an understanding of cartesian philosophy including important material from descartes scientific writings the result should meet the widespread demand for an accurate and authoritative edition of descartes philosophical writings in clear and readable modern english

based on the new and much acclaimed two volume cambridge edition of the philosophical writings of descartes by cottingham stoothoff and murdoch this anthology of essential texts contains the most important and widely studied of those writings including the discourse and meditations and substantial extracts from the regulae optics principles objections and replies comments on a broadsheet and passions of the soul

volumes i and ii provide a completely new translation of the philosophical works of descartes based on the best available latin and french texts volume iii contains 207 of descartes letters over half of which have not been translated into english before it incorporates in its entirety anthony kenny s celebrated translation of selected philosophical letters first published in 1970 in conjunction with volumes i and ii it is designed to meet the widespread demand for a comprehensive accurate and authoritative edition of descartes philosophical writings in clear and readable modern english

rene descartes is often called the father of modern philosophy the profound controversies that his doctrines have engendered are alone sufficient to establish his eminence yet if he is to be paid a due respect it is necessary to understand him on his own terms to distinguish his doctrines from myriad notions labeled cartesian the

quest for certainty may be a constitutional imperative for every philosopher in the case of descartes it was an acknowledged passion thus there is no more fitting approach to him than to study seriously his claims to having attained certainty regarding what he took to be the questions of metaphysics namely the questions of the existence of god and of the nature of the human mind the preface

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it is not enough to have a good mind it is more important to use it well rené descartes was a central figure in the scientific revolution of the seventeenth century in his discourse on method he outlined the contrast between mathematics and experimental sciences and the extent to which each one can achieve certainty drawing on his own work in geometry optics astronomy and physiology descartes developed the hypothetical method that characterizes modern science and this soon came to replace the traditional techniques derived from aristotle many of descartes most radical ideas such as the disparity between our perceptions and the realities that cause them have been highly influential in the development of modern philosophy this edition sets the discourse on method in the wider context of descartes work with the rules for guiding one's intelligence in searching for the truth 1628 extracts from the world 1633 and selected letters from 1636 9 a companion volume meditations and other metaphysical writings is also published in penguin classics for more than seventy years penguin has been the leading publisher of classic literature in the english speaking world with more than 1 700 titles penguin classics represents a global bookshelf of the best works throughout history and across genres and disciplines readers trust the series to provide authoritative texts enhanced by introductions and notes by distinguished scholars and contemporary authors as well as up to date translations by award winning translators

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those most capable of being moved by passion are those capable of tasting the most sweetness in this life descartes is most often thought of as introducing a total separation of mind and body but he also acknowledged the intimate union between them and in his later writings he concentrated on understanding this aspect of human nature the passions of the soul is his greatest contribution to this debate it contains a profound discussion of the workings of the emotions and of their place in human life a subject that increasingly engages the interest of philosophers and intellectual and cultural historians it also sets out a view of ethics that has been seen as a radical

reorientation of moral philosophy this volume also includes both sides of the correspondence with princess elisabeth of bohemia one of descartes s keenest disciples and shrewdest critics which played a crucial role in the genesis of the passions as well as the first part of the principles of philosophy which sets out the key positions of descartes s philosophical system about the series for over 100 years oxford world s classics has made available the widest range of literature from around the globe each affordable volume reflects oxford s commitment to scholarship providing the most accurate text plus a wealth of other valuable features including expert introductions by leading authorities helpful notes to clarify the text up to date bibliographies for further study and much more

descartes s principles 0 philosophy is his longest and most ambitious work it is the only work in which he attempted to actually deduce scientific knowledge from cartesian metaphysics as he repeatedly claimed was possible whatever the success of this attempt there can be no doubt that it was enormously influential cartesian celestial mechanics held sway for well over a century and some of the best minds of that period including leibniz malebranche euler and the bernoullis attempted to modify and quantify the cartesian theory of vortices into an acceptable alternative to newton s theory of universal gravitation thus the principles is not only of inherent and historical interest philosophically but is also a seminal document in the history of science and of 17th century thought principles of philosophy was first published in latin in 1644 in 1647 a french translation done by the abbe claude picot and containing a great deal of additional material and a number of alterations in the original text was published with descartes s enthusiastic approval unlike some english translations of portions of the principles this translation uses the latin text as its primary source however a good deal of additional material from picot s translation has been included there are several reasons for this first there is good evidence that descartes himself was responsible for some of the additional material including of course the preface to the french translation

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the complete works of rene descartes offers readers an extensive collection of the philosophical writings of one of the most influential figures in the history of western philosophy rene descartes known for his foundational contributions to modern philosophy rationalism and the mind body problem presents his works that have shaped the course of intellectual inquiry for centuries from his groundbreaking meditations on first philosophy where he famously declared cogito ergo sum i think therefore i am to his explorations of mind body dualism epistemology and metaphysics descartes writings provide a comprehensive overview of his profound philosophical insights this

collection includes not only his major treatises but also his lesser known essays letters and correspondence with contemporaries offering readers a well rounded understanding of his philosophical development and the context in which he lived descartes ideas continue to spark debates and discussions in philosophy science and the humanities the complete works of rene descartes is an essential resource for scholars students and anyone interested in delving into the profound thoughts of this pioneering philosopher

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