GEORGE BERKELEY

George Berkeley

A PHILOSOPHICAL LIFE



Tom Jones

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'[T]is plain, that we cannot know the Existence of other Spirits, otherwise than by their Operations, or the Ideas by them excited in us. [...] [T]he Knowledge I have of other Spirits is not immediate, as is the Knowledge of my Ideas, but depending on the Intervention of Ideas, by me refer'd to Agents or Spirits distinct from my self, as Effects or concomitant Signs. [...] God, is known as certainly and immediately as any other Mind or Spirit whatsoever, distinct from our selves. [...] A Human Spirit or Person is not perceiv'd by Sense, as not being an Idea; when therefore we see the Colour, Size, Figure, and Motions of a Man, we perceive only certain Sensations or Ideas excited in our own Minds: And these, being exhibited to our view in sundry, distinct Collections serve to mark out unto us the Existence of Finite, and Created Spirits like our selves. Hence 'tis plain, we do not see a Man, if by Man is meant that which Lives, Moves, Perceives, and Thinks as we do: But only such a certain Collection of Ideas, as directs us to think there is a distinct Principle of Thought and Motion, like to our selves, accompanying and represented by it. And after the same manner we see God√.7

-PRINCIPLES OF HUMAN KNOWLEDGE, §§145, 147-48