Metaphysics Exercise 11


1. According to Spinoza, God produces imperfect things because:
   a. Imperfection (e.g., “bad,” “ugly”) is only relative to us and our desires; there is no absolute perfection or imperfection.
   b. God is no different than, i.e. just as imperfect as, the world.
   c. God has all possible attributes; therefore, God has both finite and infinite attributes.
   d. God produces everything conceivable, perfect or not.
   e. (b) and (c).
   f. (c) and (d).

2. About which of the following would Spinoza and Descartes disagree:
   a. Volitions seem free to us because we do not know the infinite series of their causes.
   b. Will is one indivisible thing, which something either has or does not.
   c. God could have made the world different than he did.
   d. Will is a mode of thought.
   e. (a), (b) and (c).
   f. (a), (c) and (d).

3. The Bible appears to say that God made plants and animals for the sake of humans. How might Spinoza explain this?
   a. The biblical author was confused by his or her blind and insatiable greed into imagining animals and plants in this way.
   b. This was something people tended to believe at the time when the Bible was written.
   c. This is one of the things in the Bible that surpasses human reason: to understand it completely, we would need to know the whole infinite series of causes leading up to a certain event in the mind of the biblical author.
   d. The Bible seems to say this, but its real meaning must be different, since only the superstitious believe such things.
   e. None of the above.
   f. (a), (b) and (c).