Metaphysics Exercise 14

Phil. 93, Winter 2007. Due Tues., Mar. 6.

1. What, according to Spinoza, is the relationship between virtue, power, and knowledge?

a. No matter how much knowledge or power a person acquires, it is worthless without virtue.
b. Virtue is nothing but another word for power. Knowledge (of the third kind) is the highest human virtue because it is the source of all power of the human mind.
c. Virtue lies not in power or knowledge but in the love of God.
d. Only a mind, which is capable of knowledge, can be virtuous. A body, for example, however powerful, cannot be virtuous.
e. (a) and (c).
f. None of the above.

2. Which of the following is correct, according to Spinoza?

a. The soul is immortal because it is not a body, has no parts, and therefore cannot ever disintegrate.
b. The duration of the soul is longer than the duration of the body.
c. Those who do virtuous things in this life are eternally blessed.
d. Virtuous deeds often go unrewarded in this life, but, thanks to God's infinite perfection, they will be rewarded in the afterlife.
e. All of the above.
f. (c) and (d).

3. In Part V of the *Ethics*, Spinoza first says that God does not love anyone (Cor. Pr. 17) and then later says that God loves himself (Pr. 35) and that God loves mankind (Cor. Pr. 36). How can these statements be reconciled?

a. They can't. The first statement is Spinoza's true view; he added the other two to avoid condemnation by the Church.
b. The first statement is from a theoretical point of view; the other two are from a practical point of view. We can't know that God loves us, but we must act as if he does.

c. In the first statement, "love" is understood as a transition from lesser to greater activity. In the two later statements it is understood as eternal activity.

d. In the first statement, "love" is an emotion, i.e. a finite mode of the attribute of thought. In other two statements, "love" is the name of an infinite attribute of God.

e. (c) and (d).

f. (b), (c) and (d).