

Supplement to 'Philosophy'

Royal Institute of Philosophy Lecture Series: 13

IDEALISM PAST AND PRESENT

Edited by Godfrey Vesey

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IDEALISM – PAST AND PRESENT

The theme of this volume of Royal Institute of Philosophy lectures is idealism – principally the idealism of Berkeley, of Kant and the Post-Kantians, and, allegedly, of Wittgenstein.

Among the questions to which the contributors address themselves are: Did Plato, in *Parmenides*, lean towards the idealism which holds that the world is essentially structured by categories of thought? How did Descartes make Berkeley's idealism possible? How do Kant's 'appearances' differ from Berkeley's 'ideas'? Is the traditional 'double affection' interpretation of Kant's idealism – that human experience is the product of unknown things-in-themselves interacting with equally unknown selves – fundamentally mistaken? Is the basic Kantian notion that of the unavoidable relativity of a framework? How did Hegel's 'absolute' idealism differ from Kant's 'subjective' idealism? How was Fichte a forerunner of Sartre and Wittgenstein? Are the idealist aspects of Marxism compatible with materialism? What is the linguistic philosopher's equivalent of Bradley's doctrine of internal relations? Is Bernard Williams right in thinking that Wittgenstein's later philosophy points in the direction of a transcendental idealism?

In the foreword the editor relates some of the questions about idealism to changes in the philosophical concept of an idea.

Idealism Past and Present

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