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What is the more plausible theory of knowledge?

John Locke and Rene Descartes are considered modern philosophers of the early years of the 17th century (Copenhaver). Both philosophers have attempted to answer important questions about knowledge, the human mind, reason, and logic. Although the general theme was the same, the two philosophers offer fundamentally different perspectives (Quinton).

Descartes was primarily a rationalist who largely relied on the reason for the righteous guidance in thought, speech, and action. Descartes believed and completely trusted the unique ability of logic possessed by the human race. In an age which was abject with skepticism and people were habitual of appealing to God and other deities, he had faith in an individual's achievements, which are a result of clear thought, introspection, and self-reflection. He propounded that anything can be perspicuously observed by us as reason is the true gist of humanity. Descartes believed that the 'natural light' of the reason is retained by every human, and if every thought was presented logically and methodically, even the least sophisticated person could understand them. Descartes discovers knowledge through the use of innate ideas and reason.

John Locke offered a detailed analysis of the human mind and its unique acquisition of knowledge. He further opines that at the time of birth, the human mind is like a blank slate or an empty paper, and it is only filled by the different experiences of an individual as time passes (Jeffreys). Knowledge is defined by Locke as the connection or discrepancy between the ideas as formed and reformed by humans. Locke also delineates three degrees of knowledge; intuitive, demonstrative, and sensitive. All three are vital for a complete understanding of the ideas and perceptions around us, but according to Locke, only intuitive and demonstrative are considered as true forms of knowledge, and sensitive knowledge is a source of debate and confusion among Locke's followers.

According to this paper, the more plausible theory of knowledge is of John Locke, who stresses the significance of empiricism, imparting that one cannot have enough knowledge without a certain amount of experience.

# Works Cited

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