“WHO AM I?”

By Robbie Collins
“WHO AM I?”

I would just like to start off by saying that these three words have HAUNTED humans for centuries. We have constantly wondered who we are and what makes us “us”, which leads us to, then, wonder what our purpose in life is and why are we here?
THE QUESTION ITSELF

The question “WHO AM I?” itself is actually problematic if you think about it.

Let’s break it apart...
“WHO” AM “I”
WHO” AND “I”: PART 1

The “WHO” and “I” both tell us the person we are referring to in the question. But I am wondering if this person was, is, and will always be the same person.

People always say “When I was little, I WAS…” or “When I’m older, I WILL be…” This being said, am I the same Robbie as when I was 10? And will I be the same Robbie when I am 50?

I would also like to bring into question WHERE “I” am located. Am “I” in my mind? And when my mind is placed into someone else’s body does that body, then, become “me”? Or am “I” just my body and my appearance? Mandik poses these same questions in talking about the Persistence Problem.
“WHO” AND “I”: PART 2

In the Persistence Problem there is the psychological approach, which, according to Locke, consisted of “continuity of... memories...” (15.15).

Here they similarly mention the idea of a brain transplant in which Alice’s brain is put into Betty’s body, creating a new person, Carla. The question here is whether the “I” is contained in the memory/mind of Alice, if it is contained in the body of Betty, or if it is in the form of a totally new person, Carla.
I personally believe that “I” is contained in our memory and in our mind. I believe that our body is LITERALLY a housing for our mind and if the two were to be removed from each other, we would stay with our brains while our bodies become just anonymous corpses (For the record, I do realize that even if my brain were removed and my body were separated, people would still be able to see my OBJECTIVE body and say “That’s Robbie” but I believe that is who they THINK I am and not who I actually am.

If you want a summary of where I think “I” am located in the body, watch FREAKY FRIDAY with Lindsay Lohan.
NOW FOR THE “AM”...
“AM”

This is going to be much shorter of an explanation.

Who “AM” I? And when is “AM”?

Is it 1 year ago? Is it today? Or is it each and every new second that passes by?

I would say that “AM” is just the present in general and when I would refer to “AM” I would probably use it in a sense of maybe an extended present like throughout a day for example instead of each passing new second.
MY MIND IS ME
I believe that “I” am a collection of my emotions, thoughts, memories, and perceptions.

After all, these are things that make us different from each other. Even if identical twins look exactly the same, what sets them apart is their minds and what is in them. People not only know us by our appearances, but they also know us by our personalities and essentially our minds. If identical twins, for example, with separate groups of friends were to switch places and join the other’s group of friends, although they look the same, the friends would probably be able to tell that they are not “ACTING LIKE THEMSELVES”. Watch THE PARENT TRAP with Lindsay Lohan for an example.
Who else is starting to realize that Lindsay Lohan movies are very relevant to this course…

Anyway, let’s get back to what I think makes me “ME”……
What I PERCEIVE is different.

There is a certain **qualia** associated with perception. How we perceive things is a big part of what differentiates us. I can perceive something in a totally different way than someone else when the same thing happens to each of us.
MY MIND IS ME: PART 3

My EMOTIONS make me different.

We also emote differently. Kind of going along with Appraisal Theories of Emotion, there is a certain process that determines the significance of a situation for an individual; therefore, we will react to situations differently based on their individual significance.
LET’S GIVE AN EXAMPLE OF THE PICTURE
LET'S GO TO THE AQUARIUM TO SEE THE NEW OCTOPUS, ROBBIE!
OH NO I'M SO SCARED OF OCTOPI, PROFESSOR! THEY'RE SCARY!
I LIKE THEM!
I think these octopi are so cool! Don't you, Robbie?
I AM SCARED! I HATE THEM! LET'S GO SEE THE DOLPHINS BEFORE I FREAK OUT.
I AM GOING TO STAY, BUT I WILL SEE YOU AT THE STARFISH!
OK I'M GOING TO LEAVE. SEE YOU SOON.
WOOO HOOO!

ICH BIN SEHR GLÜCKLICH!
SO... IN SUMMARY...
“WHO AM I?”

I believe that “I” am located in my mind. My thoughts, perceptions, emotions, and memories make me “ME”. I believe that my objective body is not me, even though it may seem so to others.

BUT

This is just What I believe. Technically the mind is not able to be defined so how can I truly know who I am if I am saying that what makes me me can’t even be defined? Therefore, I cannot truly know myself. This could’ve been a really quick answer but if I have learned anything this year it is that one should always THINK about things EVEN IF what they are thinking about cannot be answered.
THANK YOU