

Am I a Butterfly?

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Jay arrived in America to study for a college degree. His host family Mr. & Mrs. Williams warmly welcomed him. He entered the home with great anxiety. After a month Mrs. Williams informed Jay that the family would be going away for a short vacation. She instructed him "If anybody calls, tell them we have gone away for the weekend." "Okay," said Jay without fully understanding the phrase "Gone away."

The next morning the phone rang, "Is Mr. Williams in?" Said the gentleman. I am sorry replied Jay. "Mr. Williams has passed away." Shocked by the news the man asked, "When?"

"This morning," replied Jay.

"Well, can I speak to Mrs. Williams?" asked the man. "Sorry, Mrs. Williams has also passed away," said Jay. "When?" "This morning," replied Jay.

Sensing something was not right, the man inquired, "By the way, who am I talking to?" Instead of saying, "I am their Guest." His accent got the better of him and he said, "I am their ghost."

Life's greatest challenge is understanding. Philosophers call it epistemology. How do we know what we know that we know? The most basic of all questions.

The ancient Chinese philosopher Lao Tzu was once in a crisis. After a difficult night, Lao Tzu woke one morning and said, "When I was asleep I dreamed I was a butterfly. When I am awake how can I be sure that I am not a butterfly dreaming that I am a man?"

Thank God not many philosophers suffer from this illness. Imagine what trouble the poor wife has to put up with. Does this explain why many philosophers are extremely single? To answer the ancient question, Life is not a dream.

To argue that life is a dream you must not be dreaming. It is self-refuting. You are using consciousness to refute consciousness which is contradictory. When the rubber meets the road can you still move?

If you think you are a butterfly, then what happens when someone comes after you with a net? Furthermore, butterflies have a hard time with the English language.

Butterflies are beautiful creatures but they are not intellectual, moral or aesthetic. Have you ever seen butterflies debating the meaning of butterfly. Is there a technological institution where butterflies do research.

Only humans are created with the capacity to think, reason and imagine. This is the reason why we are moral, spiritual and scientific. How do we understand reality given our limitations?

The Christian world view explains life and reality far better than other views. Life is not a random biological accident but an elegantly designed entity. It's too valuable to misunderstand. Jesus gives us the clue when he said, "I am the way, the truth and the life" (Jn 14:6).