

# Review of: "Hard problems in the philosophy of mind"

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I was dismayed that the author waits until section 4.5 before revealing that he himself takes a fairly traditional Christian religious view of the problem of consciousness. I would have preferred that he state his beliefs as soon as they are very pertinent to his answers to the hard problems. But, more than this, I wish the author had discussed Spinoza's *Ethics*, a book that deals with all these issues and presents a coherent system that partly is similar, partly is dissimilar to the author's. They both emphasize the importance of the word "substance". But I would like to know what the author thinks of Spinoza stating things like "God is without passions and is not affected by any emotion of joy or sadness", so that whoever *"loves God, cannot strive that God should love him in return"*. Like the author, I feel a purely materialistic view of consciousness (and all of life) is naive but I wish he had dealt at greater length on some of the other philosopher's views. I would also add that a large part of the physics community, those who espouse the "information-theoretic" approach to macroscopic uncertainty, do envision personal knowledge interacting with quantum effects.