

Even more van Inwagen

April 4, 2001

1. Van Inwagen's answer to the Special Composition Question

The xs compose something iff the activity of the xs constitutes a life, or there is only one of the xs.

2. 'There are no chairs'

There are several different questions to be distinguished.

- (i) Do most people really believe that there are chairs?
- (ii) Do most people have any reason to believe that there are chairs?
- (iii) Must there be chairs for the sentence 'The chair in my office is uncomfortable' to be true?
- (iv) Must there be chairs for the sentence 'The chair in my office is uncomfortable' to be *strictly and literally* true?
- (v) Must there be chairs for it to be *correct* to utter the sentence 'The chair in my office is uncomfortable'?
- (vi) Must there be chairs for what we typically use the sentence 'The chair in my office is uncomfortable' to communicate to be true?

3. Bligers

4. Unity and thinking

Question 1: How strong is the support for each of the premises in the following argument against nihilism?

- P1 I exist
- P2 If I exist, I am a composite thing
- C Therefore, at least one composite thing exists

Question 2: Does it make sense to suppose that *some things* might jointly think, believe, desire, feel, etc., without composing anything?

5. Gollyswoggles and artifacts.

6. Paraphrasing claims about the continued existence of artifacts

7. The Duplication Principle

If the xs compose something, and if the ys perfectly duplicate the xs (both in their intrinsic properties and in the spatiotemporal and causal relations they bear to one another), then the ys compose something.