

Evil Genius Hypothesis

RENE DESCARTES 1596-1650

The world consists of just you and a God-like genius wanting to deceive you. In this world, nothing physical exists, and all of your experiences are caused by the genius who manipulates your mental states. These manipulations cause you to mistakenly believe that an external world of physical objects, including your own body, exists and that you are, for example, now reading this poster.

The hypothesis inspired 1999's movie *The Matrix*.