

Our reason has this peculiar fate that, with reference to one class of its knowledge, it is always troubled with questions which cannot be ignored, because they spring from the very nature of reason, and which cannot be answered, because they transcend the powers of human reason.

Nor is human reason to be blamed for this. It begins with principles which, in the course of experience, it must follow, and which seem sufficiently confirmed by experience. With these again, according to the necessities of its nature, **McGill Philosophy** rises higher and higher to more remote conditions. But when it perceives that in this way its work remains for ever incomplete, because the questions never cease, it finds itself constrained to take refuge in the principles which exceed every possible experimental application, and nevertheless see so unobjectionable that even ordinary common sense agrees with them. Thus reason becomes involved in darkness and contradictions, from which, not doubt, it may conclude that errors must be lurking somewhere, but without being able to discover them, because the principles which it follows transcend all the the limits of experience and withdraw themselves from all experimental tests. It is the battlefield of these endless controversies which is called Metaphysics.

-Immanuel Kant, *Critique of Pure Reason*