

The Identity of Indiscernibles and Human Essence in Spinoza's *Ethics*

Abstract: I hope to arrive at a better understanding of Spinoza's accounts of humanity in the *Ethics* by means of an emphasis on the Principle of the Identity of Indiscernibles (PII): "Two or more distinct things are distinguished from one another either by a difference in the attributes of substances or else by a difference in their affections" (E1p4). Attention to the PII in the argument of the *Ethics* suggests, I argue, that Spinoza takes human essence to be a single, real thing.