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Remembering How a 17th Century Math Genius Thought of the Body

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Title: **Remembering How a 17th Century Math Genius Thought of the Body**
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Philosophy is sometimes reproached for being overly theoretical or lacking direct application to the so-called 'real world'. This was not the case for Gottfried Leibniz, the interdisciplinary genius best known today for co-inventing calculus. Leibniz's calculus continues to be used widely today in fields that measure dynamics, everywhere from health science to astronomy to economics. However, history has forgotten that Leibniz's calculus is grounded in a rich conception of the body – Leibniz's vast writings contain an interconnected and systematic treatment of the body's 'metaphysics' (with similarities to subatomic particles), the physics and mathematics by which it operates (calculus), and a 'relativistic' theory of space which influenced Einstein! These applications to modern science have encouraged me to further piece together Leibniz's conception of the body – I argue that it centres around his notion of an 'infinitely small body/quantity', which scholars have recently used to yield discoveries in mathematics, logic, and physics.