**The Trinity is Unconstitutional**

The Athanasian Creed:

worship one God in Trinity… Neither confounding the Persons; nor separating the essence… there is one Person of the Father; another of the Son; and another of the Holy Spirit...the Father is God; the Son is God; and the Holy Spirit is God. And yet they are not three Gods; but one God… Christian truth compels us to confess every Person by himself to be God (and) forbids us to say, There are three Gods.

The Father = God,

The Son = God, and

The Holy Spirit = God,

**Numerical sameness without identity**

The key claim:

X is a material object iff x is a matter-form compound; exactly one material object fills a region R iff at least one matter-form compound fills R; and x is (numerically) the same material object as y iff x and y are form-matter compounds sharing the same matter.

X and y are numerically the same just if x is a material object, y is a material object, and the matter of x = the matter of y.

**The Trinitarian application**

X is a God iff x is a matter-form compound whose “matter” is some divine essence; x is the same God as y iff x and y are form-matter compounds whose “matter” is some divine essence and x’s “matter” is the same “matter” as y’s, and there is exactly one God iff there is an x such that x is God and every God is the same God as x.

Hughes: “God” applies only to the “mass” of divine “matter”; God “materiates” Persons.

**What constitutes**

BR : “the role of matter in the case of the Trinity is played by immaterial stuff.”

The matter of a thing is not an individual thing; rather it is that which combines with form to make an individual thing” and this “view of matter… seems to comport best with (our) solution to the problem of the Trinity.

Brower: “I… think of what plays the role of matter in God… as a concrete individual, not as… immaterial stuff.  I thought this when Rea and I authored our joint F&P piece, and I continue to think this now.”

Rea: “What plays the role of matter in the Trinity is the divine nature, and (it) is a substance… Is it concrete or abstract… particular or universal… a property or something else? These questions I will not answer.”

**Monotheism**

1. Father = God.
2. Son = God.
3. ¬(Father = Son).
4. Father = Son (from 5, 6 by transitivity of identity)

BR:

the Father is identical with God, the Son is identical with God… and yet the Father (and) Son… are distinct… Consider a parallel… Athena is identical with the material object in R; Lump is identical to the material object in R; but Athena is distinct from Lump. Since “the material object in R” is ambiguous, there is no threat of contradiction… Likewise in the case of the Trinity.

1. Athena = the material object in R.
2. Lump = the material object in R.
3. ¬(Lump = Athena).
4. Lump = Athena (from 1, 2, by transitivity of identity).