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Questions for Myth and Theology Seminar 11/13/75

In what way are people aware that there is a dimension besides themselves?

How would one structure an argument to show that discourse about this Other
Dimension is legitimate and reasonable?

Bullman translation myths into conceptual categories

speaking "data" : ^{total} uncertainty
listening "data" : ^{7-11guy}

In untopia unquasi conquidra adequacy

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Dimension: a metaphor from geometry

3-D: $f(x, y, z) = 0$ where $x = g(t)$; $y = h(t)$; $z = j(t)$.

4-D: $f(x, y, z, t) = 0$ where t is not a parameter but an independent v hence a 'new,' 'further,' 'other' dimension; a shift in horizon; out of one's previous and into another world.

e. g., from the world of immediacy of the infant into the world mediated by meaning of the philosopher through the confused middle of the average man of common sense unaware of the difference; or from the world accessible to sciences based on measurements into a world accessible to sciences based on meanings.

Can one prove the existence of a further dimension?

- a) not from within that further dimension for that would be presuppose its existence and so be a *petitio principii*, begging the question;
- b) not from within the earlier dimension, for the earlier dimension does not imply the later; aliter, if the earlier implied the later, then the later would not be a new distinct further dimension.

Can one get out of the earlier into the later legitimately, reasonably?

Distinguish two cases: (1) the closed mind and (2) the open mind.

If one opts for a closed mind, then one defines one's world clearly and distinctly, determines the procedures valid and legitimate that may be employed within that world, and pronounces all other procedures to be invalid and illegitimate. EG there is the world of natural science based on measurements, and by appealing to measurements one never will find one's way into a world based on meanings. [EG Is it a law court? Dilthey]

But if one opts for an open mind, then one acknowledges the possibility that really there are further dimensions into which one might legitimately and reasonably move, one recognizes that such a move cannot be demonstrable from within the limits of the previously acknowledged dimensions, one finds it obvious that there may be hints clues suggestions indications about the further dimensions in the earlier worlds, one takes advantage of any such clues or hints, moves into the new dimension, tries it out, operates on its premises, and if it justifies itself one remains there. [Blessed Rage 91-109]