

Substantial and conjugate potencies are more difficult notions. Just as form is what is to be known, not by any understanding, but only by correct understanding, so potency is what is to be known, not by mere experience, but in the true affirmation of an experiential residue that remains even when the understanding of data is complete. This notion of an experiential residue is the inverse of the comprehensiveness of understanding. Precisely because understanding is comprehensive, there cannot be a one-to-one correspondence between elements of intellectual formulation and elements of experienced data. Conversely, were there such a correspondence, then science could not be synthetic; it could not master the many instances of data with the one series of types of substantial forms; it could not master the many similarities of data with the one series of systems of conjugate forms. Now the absence of a one-to-one correspondence involves an experiential residue. The true affirmation of such a residue in experience posits in the empirical object a component presupposed and complemented by the unifying and systematizing principles that are forms. But further investigation of this point had best be deferred to the next chapter.

The notions of partial and total group potency, form, and act are, perhaps, sufficiently clear from the discussion of the third phase of empirical method. Partial group potency is the "being together" of substantials and conjugates that makes possible their functioning according to some scheme of recurrent change. Partial group form is the potentiality that is known by affirming the probability of such functioning. Partial group act is the functioning of the scheme. Total group potency is the minimum set of combinatory coincidences of partial groups that must be postulated by the empirical scientist who was not on hand when things began. Total group act is the actual functioning of all partial group acts. Total group ~~potency~~ ^{form} is the potentiality known by affirming the emergent probability that links total group potency to total group act.