

Questions for Insight & Method course, 10/7/76

1. A fundamental presupposition of the Lonerganian system is that the human mind is everywhere and always the same in its structure and operations. Thus, the minds of Archimedes and Galileo and Einstein and others all exhibit these same operations and structure. Further, we can verify the accuracy of the Lonerganian articulation of the human mind in our own conscious activity by recognizing those these operations and structures; moreover, we find that our colleagues attest to similar verification in their consciousness. So we might acknowledge the universal validity of the Lonerganian presupposition. Still, how are we to know that what we find in our minds and what Lonergan articulates in his system is a truly universal reality which dictates the norms of human thought everywhere and always and is not merely the product of socialization into Western culture?

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2. Between the natural and supernatural there is both a continuity and a discontinuity: a continuity in that "grace builds on nature," the supernatural does not vitiate but presupposes the natural, the supernatural is the unexpected fulfillment of the natural; a discontinuity in that the natural contains the supernatural only as a possibility or even as a probability but in no way as a necessity, the supernatural comes always as gift. This same pattern of continuity and discontinuity is evident between the levels in a schema of emergent probability. Does, then, the idea of emergent probability provide an adequate model for dealing with the relation of the orders traditionally called "natural" and "supernatural"? Or does the axiom, "What is probable will eventually occur," introduce an exigency into the scheme of emergent probability which is incompatible with the pure gratuity in the relationship between the natural and the supernatural?

must

P.S. There is one addition to the class list which I gave you last:

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no one  
knows if all  
God is  
necessitated  
to love or  
love is free

After a sequence of 999 heads,  
the probability exists that the 1000th  
toss will result in a head, viz.  $\frac{1}{2^{1000}}$   
The probability of that loss by using  $\frac{1}{2}$  is  $\frac{1}{2^{1000}}$   
after 999 heads

$$\frac{1}{2^{999}} - \frac{1}{2^{1000}}$$

$$= \frac{1}{2^{999}} - \frac{1}{2^{999}} \cdot \frac{1}{2}$$

$$= 1 - \frac{1}{2}$$

$$= \frac{1}{2}$$