

526A0DTE060

'Dimensions of Meaning': handwritten notes

Dimensions of Meaning          Value of Question

1 Aq[uias]: esse reale – naturale

                                  intentionale: cognitive

  volitional moral juridical political

  instrumental language signs sacraments

  ???

2 esse intentionale: total context can undergo great change –

  new anthropological species

  evolution of another species – needs no new organs

occupies the significant part of human life

undergoes change more freely[?] than biology

                                  just change people's minds[?], decisions

  can't teach the old dog

  but there is always the new generation

[Marginal]

C [classicist] standardized man, normative --> abstract, ideal, exemplar

HC [historical consciousness] concrete factual --> relativism, unguided ?

3 different degrees of attention in classical/modern thought

                  scientia est de necessariis et universalibus

                                  nature & properties

  potencies & poss habits & acts

                  necessary and universal meanings

  natural law

                  human nature is always the same

  possible political forms

  classification virtues vices

  study of law

  history of man as classically

  apprehended

                  science aims at complete explanation of all phenomena

man as a historical being

human phenomena as involved in meaning

- ? levels of meaning – acts  
objects meant: world of immediacy  
world mediated by meaning  
world constituted by common meaning --> community  
--> history  
subject that means

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## I Meaning & Reality

### 2 World *mediated by language*, mathematics, pictures, models

$\alpha$  what are you going to do? talking writing drawing  
what are you going to talk about, write about, draw

$\beta$  at first, world mediated by language  $\equiv$  world of immediacy remembered  
anticipating  
as repetition  
as different

but by extension (in space, time)  
by generalization                      it grows to an enormously  
by analogy                                      larger fuller  
by understanding, explanation              richer              world

in world of immediacy one can see the moon  
in world mediated – photos, interpreted by scientists, reported in newspapers

$\gamma$  mediated world is not just sum of worlds of immediacy

$\alpha'$  contains what no one has seen = mountains lakes forests rivers  
what are they like when no one is  
looking?

= the other side of the moon

$\beta'$  may contain the unseen/invisible – souls, ghosts, angels, demons, heaven,  
hell, God

$\gamma'$  the whole, all that is, to pan: seen & unseen & invisible,  
touched & untouched & intangible  
the space time manifold as principle of ordering, organization  
3N-dimensions[?]  
topology – Euclid – non-Euclidean

things, properties, capacities, developments, relations, activities:  
categories

$\delta'$  mediated world has a genesis

Branislaw Malinowski, Science, Magic Religion

-- quite intelligent reasonable when sanction of experience

-- surrounded penetrated by myth & magic

K Jaspers, E Voegelin, Henri Frankfort -- ? myth concentrated at top

experiential sanction: vast organization of economy, state,

army, engineering, architecture, bookkeeping

but king = cosmological & divine > political power

Vom Ursprung und Ziel der Geschichte

Order & History

Before Philosophy

Greek mythos logos – general education mediating the mediators:  
language math

$\epsilon'$  Philosophic q. Real, Know, Objective True

reality: of immediate  
of mediated world

knowing: of immediate  
of mediated

criteria: of immediate  
of mediated

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Dimensions of Meaning

I Meaning & Reality

$\alpha$  reality prior to meaning – world of immediacy

Piaget

intention of being present in doubt  
but not mediated by image sign words

$\beta$  world mediated by meaning

1 between subject & object there intervenes

image photo picture model

words formulae signs

? to this world – study of languages literatures maths science phil

2 far larger world than the world of immediacy

not only see the moon

but photographs from close up

interpreted by scientists

narrated in daily press

whole: the world, the universe, to pan

organized: space-time manifold : from topology of childhood

through Euclidean space of Western culture

to 3n dimensions of QT

interpreted: things w natures & properties

capacities & developments

activities & relationships

3 is WMM same as WI

is knowledge of 20th century philosopher scientist

$\Sigma$  of knowledge of sufficiently large number of children

who have not reached of reason

Eddington two tables: one can be easily translated back to world of

immediacy

other not easy if at all, seems to contradict it

whole

organization

interpretation

never seen heard felt touched tasted smelt

4 philosophic problem: is the real being? or is it WI

γ world constituted through common meaning

α meaning is common if same words have same meaning to different people  
not just a private language – Humpty-Dumpty paid words double  
to different people  
not merely the things the same, a common language

a common field of experience : I don't know what you are talking about  
out of touch  
not my field

a common understanding: vs mutual incomprehension  
he puts a false interpretation on everything  
I say / do  
common sense varies with locality, country, tradition  
stranger, inscrutable Oriental  
gesunder Menschenverstand

common judgments: the facts, the principles, judgments of value  
good/bad, right/wrong

common commitments: love, loyalty, faith  
trade union, professional code, contract, partnership, friendship,  
common decision [discovery?]

β common meaning makes common enterprise possible / vast superstructure  
raised upon nature  
vice versa common enterprise generates common meanings

from natural resources & power --> technology, industry, commerce, finance  
from family ties tribe class nation --> political legal economic systems  
arrangements re religion mores family education  
from individual experience reflection inquiry --> art literature sc philosophy  
history theology

γ such superstructures develop over time  
collapse in time

history of ... modern man's  
experience of making  
the modern world

what was different at different times: not new organs: biological development  
but new laws, new enthusiasms

human nature is always the same: that is true by definition  
but our waking lives are lived in a world constituted by common meaning  
out-of-date & up-to-date – operate in a world that exists  
no longer exists

what man has made, man can remake  
men individually responsible for the lives they lead  
collectively responsible for the world in which they lead them

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$\delta$  world of interiority

$\alpha$  it is always given                      material presence - collocation  
once one is conscious                    presence of object – spectacle to spectator  
presence of subject to himself – spectator not  
part of spectacle, parade

$\beta$  it is given in different levels  
be perceptive  
be intelligent                      = natural law of human spirit  
be reasonable  
be responsible

$\gamma$  being given is not the same as being known  
knowing adds to givenness inquiry understanding conception  
reflection weighing the evidence judging

$\delta$  knowing advances through the mediation of WMM  
WCCM

$\epsilon$  subject's source of meaning: nature, mediated by M  
community, constituted by common M

Performative                      intersubjective meaning  
Priority of psyche                symbolic                      Freud Jung Binswanger Durand Ricoeur  
incarnate

Linguistic artistic  
experience  
understanding  
judgment  
decision

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## II Differentiation of Consciousness

1 the Greek differentiation

$\alpha$  Bios theoretikos wisdom science necessity  
? prudence opinion contingency

still dominant in Kant Critique of Pure Reason  
Critique of Practical Reason

$\beta$  two subjects: Thales & milkmaid – Newton at work  
two worlds: Eddington's two tables – giraffe – Plato's Ideas,  
Ar hylomorphism  
two languages: everyday – technical  
two societies: university, research institute, scientific convention,  
periodicals, specialized libraries

[marginal]: no limit

classical culture commonly is a compromise  
concrete/ relative to ideal, not in itself  
theoretical: watered down

$\gamma$  opposed to prior undifferentiated consciousness ? "non mind"

B. Malinowski, Science Magic Religion, Trobriand islanders  
quite intelligent reasonable about practical affairs  
whole context penetrated by myth & magic

H. Frankfurt: Before Philosophy – Penguin  
The Intellectual Adventure of Ancient Man  
Chicago Univ P 1946

Eric Voegelin – Order & History  
practical reason extended its sway: irrigation  
architecture, art

bookkeeping  
army  
myth and magic reached to the top  
Egyptian Pharaoh – regal, cosmic, divine

K. Jaspers, Vom Ursprung und Ziel der Geschichte  
collective mentality --> individualism

Bruno Snell, The Discovery of the Mind Harper Torchbooks  
Die Entdeckung des Geistes Hamburg 1948  
sōma  
Achilles does not think, change his mind  
he has a talk with Athena/?

δ muthos vs logos  
muthos still internal to Plato – to Hellenistic thinkers ? / Iamblichus

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II β The ‘modern’ differentiation of consciousness

α *modern* shorthand do not mean contemporary  
no impossibility of ??  
of reversals in contemporary  
Heidegger – pre-Socratics  
linguistic analysts – recall exercises  
re logos

β from demonstration to empirical science  
not true --> on the way to truth  
not certain --> probable  
not knowledge --> hypothesis theory system – subject to revision  
not necessity --> verified possibility – free fall could be, not must be,  
constant acceleration  
not causes --> complete explanation of all phenomena

1 not only changeless --> intelligibility in change  
2 not only per se --> statistics  
3 not only universal --> moves towards particular



γ science vs opinion to scientific opinion vs common sense

necessity vs contingency to verified possibility

theory vs practice to continuity pure – applied sc --> technology --> industry

wisdom vs prudence to historical consciousness

understanding history

understanding any situation in history

per se

transcendental subject to subject authentic/inauthentic vertical liberty

logic to method

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Mediation of Meaning

Mediation of – Means of

Dimensions of Meaning

1 concepts have dates: not from their content, which can be abstract

but from their context

origins: stage of human understanding

--> extent of experience,

investigation

-- judgment

-- ?

definition ??

not definition but sequence, series

prior to definition

heuristic definition

definition

metaphysics

psychology

phenomenology

2 interpretation      Renaissance painting – Biblical figures in contemporary ?

setting

classical hermeneutics: what all reasonable men would mean

which of my categories did Is Mk Paul

Plato Arist Aug Aq      have in mind

anachronism --> archaism

modern hermeneutics

task of discovery: categories/context of author

of bridge: from mine/ours to his

of series in which categories/contexts develop, go astray  
genesis, dialectic

3 doctrines truth immutable, universal consent of all right-minded people

Bossuet: if it's new, it's heresy Owen Chadwick

development of doctrines

universal consent -- > sequence of not definitively  
determined data

dogmatism that as yet long hist. inquiry

what we all should to be meanwhile what do we

always hold determined go by

much done, different opinions

? just how do you define it

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4 expression

classical: literal – everyday commonsense speech

phil. sc, maths, LOGIC

figurative: literature

modern: priority of poetry (GB Vico): of myth & magic, of dream & symbol

expression floats between extremes

logical ideal in treatise: more logical than Euclid

laws of imagination & affect in dreams

phenomenology non logical element has a power efficacy content that

introspective psychology cannot be transposed

i.e. it's here but imponderable, non-definable by  
definition

Freud family

Jung personal development

Binswanger existence

Durand (Bachelard) dominant reflexes

Ricoeur religion

Tillich/Dumery/Bultmann  
Eliade

literary critics

5 values

classical uses ideal to set up a standardized man, language, logic,  
categorical system

an apriori hermeneutics of history  
attributes timelessness of ideal to a particular realization

modern acknowledges ideal normative to be ? of human ?  
principal component human reality

but ? it to full and exact apprehension of the facts

to realization of proximately possible and solidly probable  
achievements

which will create new literature and reveal fuller possibilities

[marginal]: the good is concrete; it is discovered, revealed, realized in historical  
process

modern can consider classical as necessary stage in human development

ideal has to be objectified

before it can become practicable on large scale

therefore supersedes it