

Theory of knowledge developed from concept of skill

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◆ Theorem 1

Knowledge is the result of reason applied to experience.

Knowledge is the result of reason applied to experience, where experience encompasses all forms of experience, including perception, thoughts, imagination, and emotion. More specifically, we have the following. Knowledge is the result of reason applied to experience because experience is the only raw material that we have to work with in creating knowledge and because knowledge must be sufficiently rational or else we'll suffer and die. The opposite of rationality is irrationality, and irrationality in the extreme is insanity.

Now let's proceed to characterize the process of applying reason to experience and, as a result, characterize the nature of knowledge.

◆ Theorem 2

Skill is given by the simplest, most accurate means for achieving a goal of interest.

This is obvious, keeping in mind that simplicity is subject to accuracy. Thus, greater accuracy implies greater skill, and given a degree of accuracy, greater simplicity — lower resource use — implies greater skill. Note that resource use can be measured in terms of energy consumption if we wish to get technical about it.

◆ Theorem 3

The concept of skill applies to all intentional human behavior.

Intentional behavior is goal-directed, so by theorem 2, the concept of skill applies to all intentional behavior.

◆ Theorem 4

The concept of skill applies to the acquisition of knowledge.

The acquisition of knowledge is an intentional activity, so by theorem 3, the concept of skill applies to the acquisition of knowledge.

◆ Theorem 5

Knowledge is given by the simplest, most accurate means for achieving the purpose of knowledge.

This follows from theorems 2 and 4. Note that we have yet to specify the purpose of knowledge.

◆ Theorem 6

Competent development of the ramifications of theorem 5 will solve all problems pertaining to the theory of knowledge.

This follows from theorem 5. For completeness, note that by *all problems* I refer to all solvable problems.