



The Axioms of Wisdom

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Following a suggestion of Brouwer an axiomatic definition of wisdom is proposed.

I. In order to isolate the axioms of wisdom we have to separate wisdom from religion and from philosophy.

This follows from the fact that wisdom provides a measure by means of which we can classify a religious doctrine as expressing wisdom, respectively unwisdom. Today it is almost a tautology to say that not every religious doctrine expresses wisdom.

On the other hand, there are several examples of philosophical positions that do not express wisdom, in spite of the fact that the Greek word ‘philosophy’ implies the love of wisdom. It is again a tautology to say that today not every philosophical doctrine as such expresses wisdom.

II. To perceive the axioms of wisdom we first have to assume *the universal constant of meaning* as a primitive concept.

Thus the axioms of wisdom are:

1. **Intentionality:** A theory expresses wisdom if and only if the underlying concept of meaning is intentionality.
2. **Holism:** A theory expresses wisdom if and only if in the underlying theory of meaning an element has no meaning in isolation but depends on the meaning of the totality itself.
3. **Grace:** A theory expresses wisdom if and only if its truth is a discovery that does not depend on the properties of the symbolism used.
4. **Actual Infinity:** A theory expresses wisdom if and only if its truth implies the actual existence of a non-denumerable infinite totality.

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