

Insight & Beyond: Lecture 3, Part II: Chapter 1 §§ 2-5, “Definition, Inverse Insights, Higher Viewpoints, Empirical Residue”

[00:10]

- Implicit Definition: Insight supervenes on experience
Content of an insight is the intelligibility of an experience.
Implicit definition expresses the strictly intelligible content of an insight as distinct from the associated sensible or imaginable contents.

[7:30]

- An exercise in self-appropriation: The problem of imaginative assumptions in Euclid’s geometry and the need for implicit definition.

[18:49]

- Deconstruct our tendency to overestimate materiality, and underestimate intelligibility.

[19:15]

- Student question: Words vs. images and artistry in descriptive definitions

[23:15]

- §4: Inverse Insights – Treated in a different order than occurs in the book Insight.
- Details of why is the diagonal of a square incommensurable with its side; Why is a surd a surd?

[40:50]

- Inverse Insights as opening up the possibility of:
§ 3. Higher Viewpoints:
• Led to redefining the idea of ratio, later the idea of number itself.
- Inverse insight as the route to a higher viewpoint.

[46:10]

- §5 Empirical residue.
- No *immanent* intelligibility.
- Leaves open the possibility of a transcendent intelligibility
Examples of multiple identical images of the witch moth.
What makes them different?
Intelligible differences vs. merely empirical differences.

- Why did Lonergan include this elusive notion of “The Empirical Residue” in the first chapter?
Why did he choose to *end* the chapter with this difficult notion?
- Possibly to point to the world of experience as radically underdetermined.
To suggest that the universe is dramatically open and full of unlimited possibilities