

What is it to be wise?

To be wise is to understand everything that can be understood by a purely “reflective method” (C. I. Lewis), and to understand everything else one understands in relation thereto, i.e., in relation to one’s purely reflective understanding.

But what, exactly, is “a purely ‘reflective method’”? A purely reflective method is a method that presupposes as the datum for its analysis *any* human experience whatever, and thus requires no particular (or special) human experience(s).

August 2001