

True Metaphysics as the Horizon of Being



Defining the Horizon

- The Range of Questions (known unknown)
- The Range of Answers (known known)
- Unknown, unknown



Metaphysics and Horizon

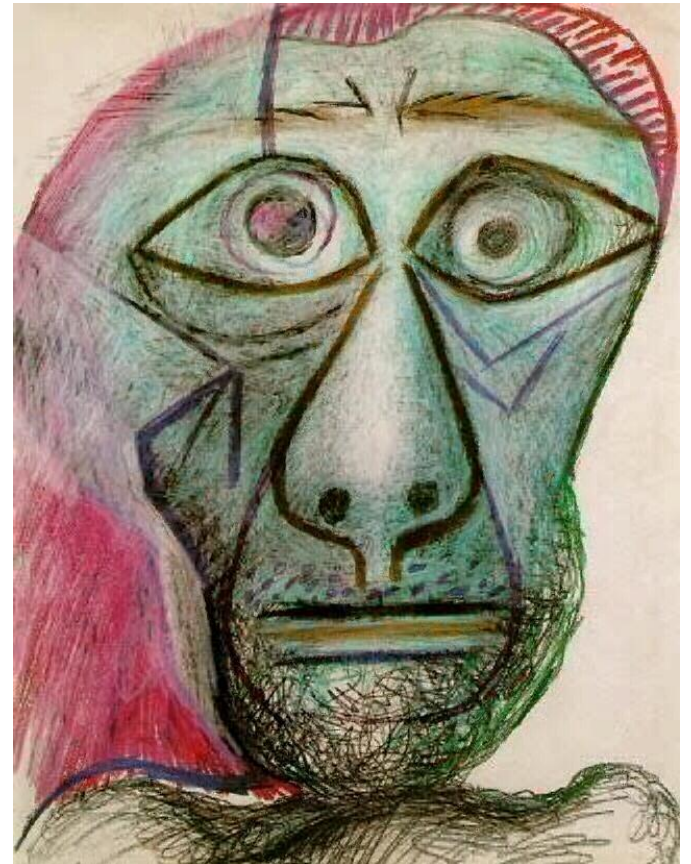
- Metaphysics is the science that seeks out the total capacity and range of being
- Metaphysics seeks to identify the characteristics and features of the totality of all that has, does, and can exist.

Four Points of Reflection

- Events – person, thing, property, activity
- Frequency of Events – frequency of a person, thing, property, activity.
- Web of Events and their Frequencies
- Developments of Webs

An Event: Understanding

- Who is this person?
- What does this person look like?
- What is going on over there?
- What kind of society do we live within?
- What kind of religions is this?



Events and Correlations

- We had learned in chapter 1 that every event can be defined by terms and relations (correlations). And event is an occurring correlation.
- Lonergan identified these terms as explanatory conjugates.

Event and Conjugate Potency

- Every event has its conditions.
- Some of these conditions are the very “materials” of the event.
- These materials are themselves potentialities that can become the “terms and relations” that come to occur. (material cause)
- In the “material world” the ultimate potency is the “empirical residue” or what was traditionally called “prime matter.” Lonergy identifies this potency for “terms and relations” “Conjugate Potency.”

Explanatory Conjugate and Conjugate Form

- The terms and relations that comprise an event are grasped by an explanatory insight. This insight is the key that “fixes” the terms and relations.
- Lonergan now identifies these “terms and relations” as the “conjugate form.” (Remember he used the terms conjugate earlier).

Occurrence and Conjugate Act

- Lonergeran used the term “occurrence” earlier in the text to identify actually occurring explanatory conjugates.
- This explanatory conjugate is the occurrence of a conjugate form, and Lonergeran calls this the “conjugate act.”