

KNOWLEDGE FROM PRACTICE

2 types of knowledge: a way of doing things that we cannot really express in clear and direct language – but we do nevertheless and do it well (e.g. “knowledge” acquired in school = explainable, accummable, rationalizable, theorizable).

knights, generals, commanders, saints

Takes the downside on behalf of others or universal values

Socrates linear model: academic → applied science → practice – an illusion. History belongs to those who can write about it (wherever winners or losers). So we are blind to the possibility at the alternative process:

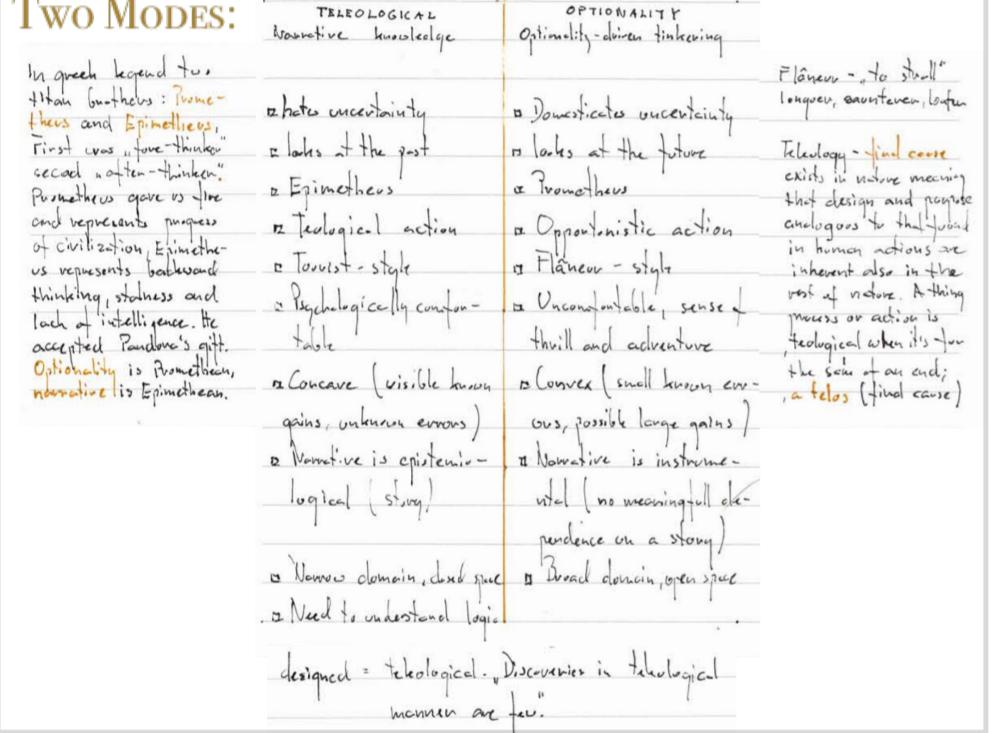
random tinkering → heuristics → practice and (long-term) apprenticeship

You do not know and cannot give scientific explanation of an event until you can ground that event into some underlying set of reasons.

THE ARTISTIC GENIUS

The artistic genius produces in a single, particular art that is universally beautiful – this instance, ultimate truth in art (ethics) domain.

TWO MODES:



VIA NEGATIVA

Via negativa – focus on negative description, the greatest and most robust contribution to knowledge consists in removing what we think is causing “substractive epistemology”.

Ovid - tempor etas rerum - the deus ex machina everything.

Seneca of Cesar (60 BC)
“time has sharp teeth and will destroy everything”
Even the most solid is then the most solid will be destroyed with most difficulty - delect!

THE DIONYSIAN IN LIFE

“Thanks to the fragility, modern culture has been increasingly building blindness to the mysterious, the unpredictable, what Nietzsche called „the Dionysian in life.”

SKIN IN THE GAME

In traditional societies, a person is only as respectable and as worthy as the downside he is willing to face for the sake of others. The most courageous, or valorous, occupy the highest rank in their society

If we are today, it is because someone, at some stage, took some risks for us.

There was someone principally endowed with physical courage – since everything was physical

For Agisclus courage had evolved from purely martial purposes into something else, the courage to stand up for an idea, probably one is ready to sacrifice

For the ancients, the worst possible outcome was not death, but a dishonorable death, or even a regular one.

HUMANITY & COURAGE

For Metternich humanity started at the rank of a baron (as well as for Aristotle, though in different form). To the English until XIX century, it started at the rank of villein freeman unoccupied with work (not deriving personal and emotional identity from work) (seeing work as something optional, more like a hobby)

Only he who has courage is free with his opinions. Sissies are born, not made.

Al-Gazali (Al-Ghazali) medieval Arabic-language skeptic philosopher who tried to destroy theology of Alverroes came with famous pin metaphor.

Knowledge is not in hands of humans, but in those of God. A. Smith calls it the law of the market or self-organisation

The logic stands outside of us, and given that nobody has direct communication with God, there is little difference between God and opacity. No single individual has a clue about the general process, and that is central.

(even more serious) – companies try to misrepresent their product they sell by playing with our cognitive biases, our unconscious associations.

Cognitivism does not follow natural ethics, it just obey the balance sheet (and therefore are very prone to chauvinism). Yet societies function thanks to random acts of generosity

Anything that requires marketing appeals to carry intrapreneur effects. You certainly need an advertising apparatus to convince people that Coke brings them „happiness”. Word of mouth is a potent (and only) naturalistic filter. Good things are „marketed” in a sense, by making people aware of their existence.

What is marketed is necessarily inferior, otherwise it would not be advertised.

Marketing is bad manners

MEGALOPSYCHON

Megalopsychon (term from Aristotle's ethics), a sense of grandeur, superseded by Christian value of ‘humility’. No word for it in other than Arabic languages (they called it *Sham*) – best translated as nonsmall.

If you take risks and face your fate with dignity, there is nothing you can do that makes you small. If you don't take risks, there is nothing you can do that makes you great, nothing. And if you take risks, usually half-man (those who don't risk anything) are similar to brutes by nonhuman animals; you can't feel insulted by a dog.

In the old days, privilege came with obligations. Want to be a feudal lord? You're fit to die

Speculative risk taking is not just permissible, it is mandatory. No opinion without risk, no risk without hope of return.

In the old days, privilege came with obligations. Want to be a lord? You're fit to die. You want war? First in battle...

Those few whom we have benefited the most are those who tried to help us, but rather those who have actively tried – but eventually failed – to harm us.

EQUILIBRIUM & STRESSORS

Equilibrium; for the nonorganic, noncomplex it is a state of inertia. Such state for something organic only begins with death. Organisms and dynamic systems exists in a state for *from equilibrium* – a state of normalcy requires a certain degree of volatility, randomness, the continuous steaming of information, and stress.

Much of aging comes from a misunderstanding of the effect of constant – a disease of civilization

Reproducing stress-tough antifragile systems, standardizing a agent of fragility

I am punished by principle of constraint

Entrepreneurs are usually wrong and make mistakes – plenty of mistakes. They are complex. What counts is the payoff from success. Decision making is the real control (that is, deeds) is Thalesian, while forecasting in words is Aristotelian.

In the antifragile case (of positive asymmetries) positive black swan – possibility of occurrence is underestimated in the long-term average: it will hide the qualities, not defects!

In the single case of negative asymmetries (turkey problem) the sample track record will tend to underestimate the long-term average: it will hide the defects and display qualities.

BARBELL & ASYMMETRY

Dova = “bold” in Greek but distinguished from knowledge = *episteme*

Making approach of nonrandom species (including humans): 50% accounted, 10% with star. Stability with first & clearing with aggressive alpha

Bimodal (barbell) strategy: extreme risk leaning on one side and extreme risk aversion on other. This allows to domesticate uncertainty

FLANEUR

I believe that one can be intellectual without being a nerd; one has a private library instead of a classroom and spends time as an aimless (but rational) human being; living what randomness can give us instead and outside the library.

PERFECTED SIMPLICITY

We have entered the stage of the perfected simplicity. You do something for the sake of doing it. You share sales of executives, open freedom against all forms of constraints. Considering that readers go for a kind of a short-hand index life is then possible

NIETZSCHE & TWO FORCES

The mandate of scientific optimism imitated Nietzsche; this use of reasoning and knowledge at the service of life.

Ancient Greek culture represented balance of the two, until the influence of Socrates (or Epictetus) he gave a larger share to the Apollonian and dispensed the Dionysian power to the continuation of life

1. Heracles – strength
2. Hercules – straight
3. Marsyas – craft, science and reason

4. Liber Pater – the true one, associated with Bacchus and God of wine, vines, Greek equivalent: Dionysus, fertility and freedom. Patron of Rome's pleasures. His festival: *Liberia* (modest)

ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Looser someone, who after making a mistake, doesn't introspect, doesn't exploit it, feel embarrassed and defensive rather than enriched with a new piece of information, and tries to explain why he made the mistake rather than moving on. These types often consider themselves „victims” of some large plot, bad boss or bad weather.

Entrepreneurship; risky and heroic activity, necessary for growth or even the mere survival of the economy in order to progress, modern society should be treating valued entrepreneurs in the same way we honor soldiers

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FREEDOM & OPPORTUNITY

Trivial and error is freedom. Avoidance of boredom is the only worthy mode of action. Life otherwise is not worth living.

“Much what other people know isn't worth knowing”

“The most severe mistake made in life is to mistake what we don't see for the nonexistent, a sibling to mistaking absence of evidence for evidence of absence”

„DZIESIĘTKOWANIE”

Roman Roman soldiers incentive to be a coward and hurt others thanks to process called decimation. If injury loses a battle and there is suspicion of cowardice, 10% of the soldiers and commanders are not to death (by random lottery). The magic number is 10, putting more to death would weaken the army, and if it is too little, then cowardice would be a dominant strategy.

SENECCA & THREE FORCES

Seneca's reverence to Dionysian and Apollonian attributes: in three manifestations –

1. Liber Pater – Bacchic force, gives sensual power to the continuation of life

2. Hercules – strength

3. Marsyas – craft, science and reason