

UNDERSTANDING ANALOGY—PART III

Let's look at some examples of analogical terms, terms we use every day without, perhaps, understanding that we are using them analogically, and examine what species of analogy each involves.

Prudent
 Human
 Bridge
 Knowledge
 Love
 Feeding
 Family
 Threshold
 Matter
 Form

Term	Said of	Type
<i>Prudent</i>	Foresight An action A mode of speech A kind of teaching	Attribution

'Prudent' is an adjective of the noun prudence signifying the virtue whereby we exercise right reason about things to be done. This is expressed by foresight. An action is prudent because it is directed by operation of the virtue. A mode of speech and a kind of teaching are described as prudent because they manifest prudence's characteristics.

<i>Human</i>	Man An intellect A colour A stature A corporeal organization	Attribution
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'Human' is an adjective of the noun man and signifies characteristics proper to man. 'An intellect' bespeaks the power proper to man; 'a colour' in context signifies the complexion proper to a man and 'a stature' signifies the dignity proper to a man. 'A corporeal organization' is designated 'human' when it manifests order and end proper to man.

<i>Bridge</i>	A structure spanning a gap in the terrain A short passage in music between two themes A device for lifting the strings of a violin A dental plate	Proportionality
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'Bridge' is a noun and is said properly of the first instance, a structure spanning a gap in the terrain. It is applied properly (analogically) to the third and fourth instances cited, and metaphorically (and analogically) to the second.

Knowledge Understanding Proportionality
 Sensation
 Connaturality mother and child
 Sailor and the weather

'Knowledge' is a noun which signifies the possession of the form of a thing known. In understanding the form is the essence (what the thing is); in sensation the form possessed is limited to its sensible qualities. In connaturality, the form possessed follows on a certain sympathy between knower and known and has affinity with the (internal) estimative sense. Each *is* knowledge proportioned to the power in operation.

Love Intellective affect Proportionality
 Sensitive affect

'Love' is a noun signifying order and inclination to what is fitting to the appropriate appetitive faculty. In the case of the intellect, the faculty is the will. In the case of the sensitive affect it is the sense appetite. Each *is* love proportioned to its proper power.

Feeding Giving food to an animal Proportionality
 Mulching a plant
 Introducing water from a tank into channels

'Feeding' is a gerund; a verbal-noun. Mulching in relation to a plant is proportionate to giving food to an animal, as is the introduction of water into channels.

Family Parents and children Proportionality
 A bitch and her litter
 A class of similar birds
 Members of a particular species of tree

'Family' is a noun. It is said properly of parents and children and analogically (and properly) of a bitch and her litter. However, the term is said only metaphorically of the last two. Similar birds taken with respect to a class reflects only virtually the proportion of parents and children to a family. Nor are trees in a particular species said properly to be a family, only metaphorically.

Threshold The doorstep of a house Proportionality
 The initial concept of a science
 The realisation of a need permanently to modify one's behaviour

'Threshold' is a noun. Said of the initial concept of a science (such as the doctrine of causality) it is used metaphorically. The concept in relation to entering upon the science is like the step in relation to entering the house. Similarly, is the realization of the need to amend one's life, or the need to embrace the one true religion, that established on earth by Our Lord, Jesus Christ.



A Threshold

<i>Matter</i>	The indeterminate Water	Proportionality
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The material elements that go to make an aeroplane
The scientist's perception of a body

'Matter' in philosophy signifies that which causes *by being determined*. Matter can be anything; of itself it is not only amorphous but utterly indeterminate. Indeed, matter cannot exist save in combination with some substantial form. For this reason it is called *primary* matter. When said of water, 'matter' signifies *secondary* matter, primary matter to which is joined the substantial form of water. The elements that underlie the artificial entity of an aeroplane—such as steel, aluminium and glass—are, likewise, instances of *secondary* matter. The analogy between *secondary* and *primary* matter is one of proper proportionality.

It is otherwise, however, with the reality the experimental scientist refers to as 'matter'. For, though he is ignorant of the fact, he means by the term a material substance with no particular regard for its formal constitutive. There is no analogy here; nothing in common. He is using the term *equivocally*.

<i>Form</i>	That which causes by determining The plans of an aeroplane A bodily shape	Proportionality
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That which is known of any material thing

'Form' (substantial form) signifies the influence, immaterial and real, whereby something is determined to be what it is. Among natural things it is convertible with the term 'essence'. The plans according to which an aeroplane is built taken with respect to the 'plane are analogous with form of a natural thing, such as a falcon, taken with respect to the bird. The analogy is of proper proportionality. More remotely, but still in proper proportionality, is shape taken with respect to a body.

In contrast is that which is known (by man) of any material thing. For what we know, when we know, is *the form* of the thing—the form without the matter. To know something is to have something in self formally and not materially. So the term is *univocal* with the form of the thing.