

the knowledge that we have in life. Actually at least 90% and perhaps much more of all that anyone of us knows is secured by revelation. I do not mean here revelation from God but revelation or communication from another human being. Without such revelation we would not know very much. There is probably not a scientist living who has not learned at least 90% of the facts that he knows by communication from other scientists. He takes the observations of other men, he takes the philosophizing of other men, the theories of other men, the observations of other men, and learns them by communication from them. He may add something to the total but without this matter of communication from one person to another of that which he knows, the knowledge of any one of us would be very slight indeed.

People like to think of this matter of revelation as if it was something hazy, medievalistic, vague, undependable. Actually it is the simplest fact of life. You may look at me and wonder where I was born. It would take a great deal of looking before any one of you would be able safely, would be able accurately to tell the name of the town or even of the state in which I was born. If I did not speak you probably would have great difficulty in even telling what country I was born in. Such a matter would be very difficult to learn other than by communication. We are given a communication, a revelation, from another personality, which tells us the answer to the problem.

Sometimes I think that a great deal of modern philosophy is as if, could be compared to the situation of a group of philosophers who would stand on top of Mount (5 1/2) on the shores of the Pacific Ocean. These philosophers, let us say, have never met anyone who has ever been across the Pacific. And ~~has~~ ^{have} never talked ~~to~~ with anyone who has been there or read any book that has come from that area. They sit on top, they say we do not wish to be prejudiced by anything that someone else will say. We want to reach our own conclusions, so they refuse to read books about China, to talk with anyone who has been there, or to gain any knowledge from other than their own