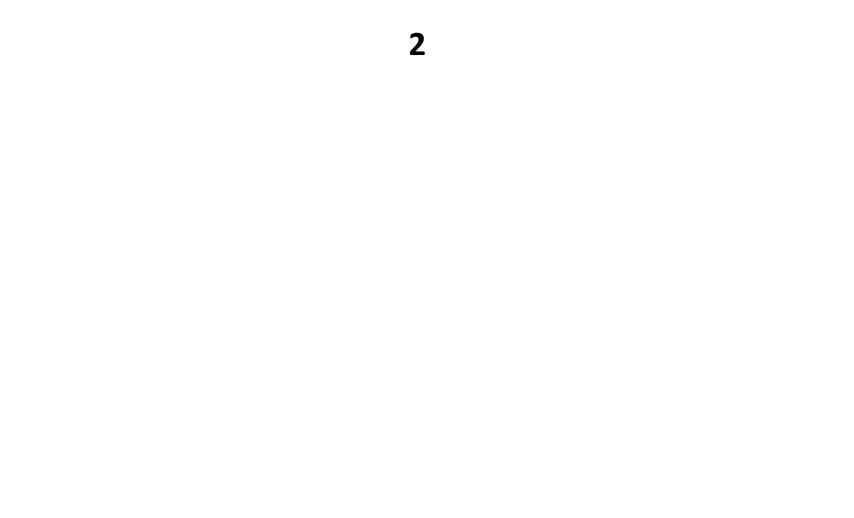
1

Know thyself

- That which is ontically closest, is ontologically farthest (what is obvious to us, is hardest to question and to understand)
- We are quite bad at understanding ourselves
- Not in psychological sense
- quite bad at understanding human nature itself
- why?
- Tradition:
 - Humans get their self-interpretation from culture
- This has until recently in the west been religion
 - After death of god, naturalism/humanism/scientism have taken over



• Science

- Rooted in the metaphysical tradition
- Considers human beings as just one thing among the other things in the world.
- Nothing wrong with it, as long as kept in its place
- Dawkins prime example of someone taking it out of its place
- compare Hawking (garden of eden equally true with big bang)
- Practically, technologically, science is an effective tool
- But, we cannot allow it to determine our self understanding
- Why? category error
 - we're not the sort of being that science is designed to talk about
- Letting science talk about the human being compare to tory economic policy

• Heidegger, Freedom, Science

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- What is obvious is hard to understand
- Science is a human way of being
- first seems wrong
- then obvious
- against the idea of science as some sort of disembodied source of knowledge
 - comparable to the internet
 - see this is students' essays (science says...)

• Free being

- we are not determined in our essence
- trad idea of evil:
 - a volcano is determined by god, it behaves according to its essence
 - humanity can betray its "nature"
 - but not because it is evil, but because it has no nature of

this sort in the first place

- We are an utterly pliable species, given over to fads and historical change
- What it is to be a cat only changes insofar as what it is to be a human changes (ie living in a flat block)
- back to beginning, our self-understanding changes all the time
- 0

• THE WORLD

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- But also, our understanding of the world changes
 - in science mode world is a bunch of dead objects that bump into each other

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- in arndale centre on a saturday two weeks before christmas, the world is an infuriating obstacle between me and the stuff i need to do
- depressed, the world is a flat grey nothing demanding nothing of me

 science is just one way of looking at things, that we *choose* to adopt (more or less consciously)

 the richest account of who we are will start from that fact of experience, rather than from an mri scanner