

interpret the data in our possession appropriately for our purposes. For one thing, if it were quite serious, dead is what we would be. Think of the amazingly intricate and complex situations in which one must provide constant split-second decisions: driving the car, crossing a busy street, finding one's way in a strange town, climbing the stairs so as to avoid the banana peel on the third step, etc. Humans are incredibly good interpreters for thousands of purposes. What they can't do, however, is provide omniscient guarantees of a propositionally logical kind for their first-order interpretations. What they are is hermeneutically *competent*, thanks to their created epistemic endowment.

heuristic: pertaining to principles which provide guidance for research and problem solving. In a word, cognitive shortcuts and time-savers. In chess, for example, "Get your queen out early," would be a heuristic rule of thumb. Heuristic principles keep research and problem solving tactics relevant. Opposed to blind trial and error, or blind brute force process of elimination.

holistic: pertaining to the *whole* in the following way: the whole determines the meaning of the parts so that a part must be *systemically* understood if it is to be understood at all. This is of course a problem to the extent that the whole is complex. The greater the complexity of the whole (*if holistic understanding is required*) the less is the prospect for a *finite* intellect to comprehend a particular within that whole. Needless to say, infinitely complex wholes put partial knowledge out of reach. **Holism** names the general approach that takes a holistic approach to understanding the meaning of particulars. For the contrary view, see "horizontal epistemology".

horizontal epistemology: Harold's coinage for an epistemology that makes *created cause-and-effect structures* the basis for the integrity of our partial knowledge. "Local" and "functional" knowledge is secured by the integrity of causal patterns rather than by exhaustive implicatory relations among all the facts there are. See "holistic" for the opposite view.

Howard Cosell: late sportscaster of Monday Night Football fame who "called it like he saw it"—sometimes crude and insensitive to the feelings of others.