

utterly baffling. The transcendental question cannot be raised, that is, within a vacuum!

This is precisely where evidentialists begin having serious problems with presuppositionalists. To see the problem clearly, here is the general form of a transcendental question. (The same holds for generating a scientific hypothesis.): "*What sort of thing would have to hold true if the (specific) data are as I have discovered them to be?*" Whenever data are left behind the transcendental question is *bound* to be ill-formed. That is because, by the very nature of the case, transcendental reasoning has to be data-governed or it has simply left the real world. When Van Til makes *all intelligible predication* a transcendental problem, he has made *datahood itself* a problem. It is impossible to gain any intellectual traction with this high abstraction as the fundamental problem.

Put still another way, human beings with their set of characteristics and interactions begin their puzzlement over the meaning of data *in the middle*, so to speak, not from the vantage of omniscience (that's unattainably high), and not from radical scratch (that's unattainably low). For what it is worth, in the *Transcendental Bowl* (section [8] of the Introductory Essay), the Thumbs and the Blockheads couldn't really play actual football because the turf itself (i.e., the field of play which should have been *taken for granted*) was a transcendental problem for them. The moral of that story is that if literally *everything* is a transcendental problem *ab initio*, inquiry and problem solving cannot even take place. Data have disappeared and only intellectual abstractions remain.

transcendental sine qua non of all intelligible predication: (cf. also "predication") this is just a fancy way of summarizing the way Van Til's apologetic treats God: as the transcendental solution to the problem of intelligible predication. That is, the insistence that *unless* God is presupposed, all intelligible predication collapses instantly.

univocal reasoning: reasoning on the same plane as, with the same terms and logical constraints as. "Univocal" is literally "with one voice".

vertical epistemology: a metaphysics of knowledge as opposed to a (horizontal) criteriology of knowledge.