

Paper 2

As stated in the introduction to “Mind as Evolution and Evolution as Such,” this paper applies the evolutionary framework to the issue of knowledge acquisition. The paper focuses on a dilemma that was raised in one of Plato’s dialogues. The dilemma addresses the problem of how we can learn that which we do not already possess knowledge about.

Meno’s dilemma reflects very well the quest for the origin of the species. How could species emerge without the guidance of a knowledge process? The theory of evolution offers an answer to this question. Likewise, using the framework of the previous paper, an answer can be offered to how the mind can learn what is yet unknown without the guidance of a knowledge process.

I feel that when it comes to the issue of learning, it is very important to ask the right questions. If the wrong questions are asked, the answers will not be satisfactory if they at all are found. In the origin of the species, the question to ask is not how a god was able to create the species. If that question had guided Darwin, the idea of evolution would never had occurred to him. Likewise, in learning, the question to ask is not how an intelligent homunculus, agent or process is able to manage new knowledge. Instead, like in the origin of the species, we should find a way to avoid the involvement of any such entity. The framework of evolution presented in the previous paper allows us to do just that. In this paper, it is shown how.