

## Summary of 'Reaching for Heaven' (Hemelbestormers)

In today's fast-paced and material-driven world, the philosophical exploration of human thought and its impact on behavior and society is more relevant than ever. The article 'Reaching for Heaven' offers a profound reflection on the nature of human thinking, its metaphysical dimensions, and the tension between ideal forms and imperfect reality. The article counterbalances the focus of mankind and especially youth, influenced by social media, to strive for perfection in life as if ascending to heaven. This summary captures the essence of the article, highlighting its key arguments and contemporary significance.

Reaching for heaven is a philosophical perspective on the special capabilities of thinking. Rationality is a distinctive feature of humans. The rational property of man can be determined indirectly and directly. Indirectly, man has different abilities than animals. Thinking provides the ability to influence and shape objects in nature. Man is able to build, to irrigate land and convert raw materials into a variety of products. He is also able to communicate in a way which is not directly available in nature, such as internet, music. Directly, man is able to think without reliance on nature.

Metaphysical thinking is characterized by distinct thoughts. First, man is able to think perfect forms by the act of presentation. Second, man is able to put objects together in his mind and "move back and forth" that way. I conclude that the thoughts of man are directed to perfect conditions. Perfection in relationships is balance. This approach is geometric, mathematical. Euclides, and after him many others, in Greek Antiquity, professed that the science of geometry, algebra and arithmetic belong to the class of intuitive evidence. For the mathematical objects (lines, shapes, algebra) which are evaluated by human reason, no experience is used. These cases are therefore of an extraordinary category, because they prove that man can reproduce

Distinction of these categories (nature and metaphysics) gives an insight in the relationship between experiences and pure thoughts. I will return to these axioms (i.e. not proven but accepted on the basis of claims) later in the paper. Natural experiences do not match with these perfect proportions. People can get disappointed, lose grip on life or lose balance. Man is seeking for balance analogous to the idea of perfect proportions; a balance that he is not able to hold, because nature upsets the abstract balance. The moment a flower is in complete bloom, is a brief moment. This is comparable to the concept of perfect life: the idea of perfect life is corrupted with the acquisition of 'peak experiences'. Uncertainties block peak experiences and that is the reason why man wants to control experiences. In this article I demonstrate the impact of thinking on human life. I answer three questions.

The first question is: "What is the significance of thinking to mankind?" (1). I will demonstrate that perfect thoughts control human life. These thoughts create tension with the imperfect nature of mankind.

The second question is: "What are the positive and negative effects of perfect thinking on everyday life?" (2). As I argued earlier, the effects can be categorized in positive and negative ways. This leads to the question whether humans can influence the effects.

I therefore introduce a third question: "Is man able to reduce negative effects of thinking and stimulate positive effects?" (3). Question 1: What is the significance of thinking to mankind? Thought Game Follow me in the next mind game. Take a point in mind. You increase the point. What is happening? The point becomes a circle. So you can without using the senses, think from a point to a circle. Because the circle is defined with an inner and an outer area, the edge marks a border. You might think from a point to a point on the border and back to the starting point. Then take this movement of the image in mind. You are able to judge the size of the circle from small to large and vice versa. You are able to move the line (the diameter and thus the radius of the circle) in your mind. With this thought game, I declare two axioms proven to be right. These propositions are, first, that man is able to think perfect forms by making presentations without interference of the senses. Second, he is able to put things together in his mind and "move back and forth" that way.

If you agree with the proposition that man has a mental ability which has no direct relationship to the visible world, I call this a mental condition. Man approaches the physical world from this starting point. By thought, which is typical for man, it is possible that man thinks himself as "point in the timeline". I rely on both axioms. He develops a self- image by combining (perfect) thoughts and experiences. This includes a number of variants that can be distinguished, which I will explain in this section. Based on the perfect forms i.e. 'positive' ideals, intellectual capacity allows him to balance live and judge experiences in comparing perfect forms with imperfect experiences (which lead to 'negative' imperfect thoughts). Thinking perfect forms empowers and distinguishes man (positive) and also requires another approach of reality than sheer basic instinct. Between imperfect experiences (from nature) and perfect ideas, man is stuck in the middle and is only able to try to reach heaven.

If you are interested, I invite you to read the article.

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