

Technology: Demonstrating Our Detached, Disinterested Desire to Know

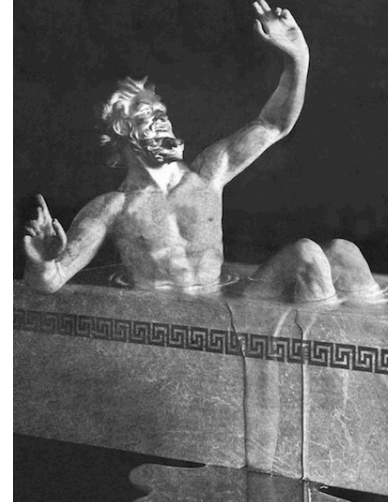
(1) The Root of Technology: Detached, Disinterested Desire to Know

. . . the development of science is followed by a technological expansion, by a vast increase of things that man can make for himself . . .¹

As inventions accumulate, they set problems calling for more inventions. The new inventions complement the old only to suggest further improvements, to reveal fresh possibilities, and eventually to call forth in turn the succession of mechanical and technological higher viewpoints that mark epochs in man's material progress.²

. . . the advance of technology . . . [is] not only intelligible but also intelligent.³

The guiding orientation of the scientist . . . is a pure detached, disinterested desire to simply know.⁴



Archimedes's Insight

(2) The Biases: Individual, Group, and General Bias

(3) Cultivating and Applying Our Desire to Know

[Scientific] thought is methodical, and the scientist pins his faith, not on this or that scientific system or conclusion, but on the validity of the scientific method itself. But what ultimately is the nature and ground of method but a reflective grasp and specialized application of the object of our inquiry, namely, of the dynamic structure immanent and recurrently operative in human cognitional activity? It follows that empirical science as methodical not merely offers us a clue for the discovery, but also exhibits concrete instances for examination, of the larger, multi-form dynamism that we are seeking to explore.⁵

¹ Bernard Lonergan, *Insight: A Study of Human Understanding* (Toronto: University of Toronto, 2008), 98.

² Ibid., 233.

³ Ibid., 236.

⁴ Ibid., 97.

⁵ Ibid., 16.