

# A Categorical Analyst Visits Hell (but doesn't want to live there)

**Positivist:** If you can't touch your face in the mirror, your face must not exist because "*Only images in the mirror are reality.*"

**Categorical Analyst:** Talk about inserting an unwarranted, illogical, metaphysical assumption  
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**Positivist:** You can't just assume the existence of a face and its properties -- where is the empirical evidence to back it up.

**Categorical Analyst:** The images in the mirror.

**Positivist:** You can't measure the face in the mirror. There is no evidence of a face, there are only images formed on the two dimensional manifold of the mirror. All we can DIRECTLY measure are 2D images. What is the sense of saying that this 3D face which we cannot DIRECTLY measure in the mirror has the properties which you ascribe to it.

**Categorical Analyst:** The sense is that we can shave or apply lipstick.

**Positivist:** Those words have no meaning, they are just rationalist metaphysics. they are just analytic a priori. In order to have meaning they have to be based on something you can measure.

**Categorical Analyst:** The images on the mirror can be measured, and from them we derive laws. These laws reflect a structure. That structure is the face with the properties which you erroneously say we have no evidence of. The 2D manifold of the mirror is measured in terms of a 2D coordinate system. As such it forms the "*grammar*" of the perception of images formed on the surface of the mirror. These two dimensions are the hard-wired syntax which is synthesized with information on the mirrors surface to form the images. This could be called the *perceptual synthesis* of the *objects of perception* formed in the mirror.

**Positivist:** Only the images on the mirror's surface comprise the REAL WORLD

**Categorical Analyst:** Sigh .....

**Cartesian:** The images are innate in the mirror.

**Categorical Analyst:** No they are not.

**Positivist:** That's right the images are the REAL WORLD which the mirror simply allows us to see. Either statements are analytic a priori in which case they are tautologies (such as logic and

math which we can know without looking into the mirror for experience) or they are synthetic a posteriori in which case they are empirical and we can only know them by experiencing the images on the mirror's surface. Only statements about the experienced images are truly scientific.

**Categorical Analyst:** No that's not it either.

**Hegloid:** Well since the REAL WORLD is formed out of the images formed on the mirror's surface, that means that the mirror creates reality, so the rationalists were right in a sense, correct? Also because the mirror "creates" these images we can say that there is no absolute reality. All realities are relative because all images are constructed by the mirror.

**Categorical Analyst:** No the images are not innate on the mirrors surface like a picture, nor are they created by the mirror itself, they are a synthesis of the dimensions of the mirrors surface and the information carried by photons.

**Hegloid:** Ok so the REAL WORLD does not exist apart from the mirror, so the mirror creates the REAL WORLD, right?

**Categorical Analyst:** Sigh ..... No

**Cartesian:** The mirror is the fundamental reality

**Positivist:** The images are the fundamental reality

**Hegloid:** There is no fundamental reality

**Categorical Analyst:** You are all incorrect, there is a fundamental reality, apart from the images on the mirror's surface, and we can study that fundamental reality by examining the images on the mirror's surface.

**Cartesian:** You, Mr. Categorical Analyst are denying the fundamental reality of the mirror, you must be an image/materialist, in the good old days we would burn you at the stake sinner.

**Positivist:** You, Mr. Categorical Analyst are denying the fundamental reality of the images, you must be a rationalist/metaphysician, you should be shunned you irrational flake, in the good old days we would have laughed you out of town.

**Hegloid:** You, Mr. Categorical Analyst are denying that there is no fundamental reality, you must be a dogmatic fundamentalist or a demagogue, you should be housed in a mental institution.

**Categorical Analyst:** Sigh .....

