

Poetry and Science.

The objection to poetry and art and religion is that unlike science we have no means of testing their validity. They cannot be subjected to an experiment to see whether they correspond with nature and of course what is characteristic of science is "this activity into nature". This has led to all other activity even being classified as "non-sense". In Brodsky I think I have at last seen the solution. "There is nothing odder than to apply an analytic device to a synthetic phenomenon". Poetry etc is a synthetic phenomenon not a natural one and the approach to its evaluation must take another way. Thus a category mistake is made by the insistence of science in wishing to apply its own method to phenomenon which can never correspond to natural reality. The same argument applies to religion. Then to what do they correspond? In my view they are all attempts to shape the divine nature of Being and to invent other realities which by their aesthetic appeal validate their truth. The fact that we do not have a measure for them is why they correspond with spirit but spirit made human and comprehensible.

H Arendt
L Wittgenstein
J Brodsky