

Buenos Aires, July 26th, 1960

Prof. Karl R. Popper
Fallowfield, Manor Road
PENN, Buckinghamshire
England

Dear Karl:

I am delighted with this new treatment. You were very kind in suggesting it.

The passage of Galileo occurs in Il saggiaatore, sec. 6, in Opere, ediz. naz. (Firenze, 1842 ff.), vol. IV, p. 171, and also in Opere, ed. F. Flora (Napoli, Ricciardi, s.d.), p. 121: "La filosofia e scritta in questo grandissimo libro che continuamente ci sta aperto innanzi a gli occhi (io dico l'universo), ma non si puo intendere se prima non s'impara a intender la lingua, e conoscer i caratteri, ne' quali e scritto. Egli e scritto in lingua matematica, e i caratteri son triangoli, cerchi, ed altre figure geometriche, senza i quali mezzi e impossibile a intenderne umanamente parola; senza questi e un aggirarsi vanamente per un oscuro laberinto." Approximate translation: "Philosophy[=science] is written in that great book which is continually open before our eyes (I mean the universe), but it cannot be understood unless one first learns the language and knows the signs with which it is written. It is written in mathematical language, and its signs are triangles, circles, and other geometric figures, without which it is impossible to understand a word; without these it is a vain motion in an obscure labyrinth".

I am winding up a paper on intuition and intuitionism, dealing with philosophical intuitionism, mathematical intuitionism, and what is loosely called 'intuition' in scientific research. Besides, I am preparing my soul for a one year sojourn in the USA.

Best wishes. Yours,

Mario Bunge

Buenos Aires, July 26th, 1960

Prof. Karl R. Popper
Hilfsweg, Manor Road
Barnes, Buckinghamshire
England

Dear Karl:

I am delighted with this new treatment. You were very kind in suggesting it.

The passage of Galileo occurs in II scettatore, sec. 6, in Opere, ediz. naz. (Firenze, 1842 ff.), vol. IV, p. 171, and also in Opere, ed. F. Floris (Napoli, Ricciardi, s.d.), p. 121: "La filosofia e scritta in questo grandissimo libro che continuamente ci sta aperto innanzi a gli occhi (io dico l'universo), ma non si può intendere se prima non s'impara a intender la lingua, e conoscer i caratteri, ne' quali e scritto. Egli e scritto in lingua matematica, e i caratteri son triangoli, cerchi, ed altre figure geometriche, senza i quali nomi e impossibile a intenderne unamente parole; senza questi e unagirar vanamente per un oscuro labirinto." Approximate translation: "Philosophy [science] is written in that great book which is continually open before our eyes (I mean the universe), but it cannot be understood unless one first learns the language and knows the signs with which it is written. It is written in mathematical language, and its signs are triangles, circles, and other geometric figures, without which it is impossible to understand a word; without these it is a vain motion in an obscure labyrinth."

I am winding up a paper on intuition and intuitionism, dealing with philosophical intuitionism, mathematical intuitionism, and what is loosely called 'intuition' in scientific research. Besides, I am preparing my soul for a one year sojourn in the USA.

Best wishes. Yours,

Mario Bunge
003