

greatly frightened. They say are you going to have concept inspiration? Is it the ideas rather than the words? Is it some sort of a dynamic theory? No. I do not say it is the ideas that are inspired. Ideas are revealed; the words are inspired. But by inspired I don't think we should say that that means every single point of letter or tense or whatever in this has necessarily such a meaning that you can take it and squeeze it to the very limit, and whatever idea you get out of that sentence is absolutely correct and precise. I don't think we can say that.

Because most sentences in human language can be interpreted in various ways. Words do not express precise points of thought. They express areas. And those areas differ in different languages. I was thinking a couple of days ago of our distinguishing in our English word "big" and the German word "gross." I believe people will tell you that "gross" is German for "large." I think most dictionaries will say that. But the German word "gross" is used where we use the word "great." We would never speak of William the Large! Or of Henry the Large! Gross does not mean large; it means great. Great is different from large. It may be used for large, but that is rare. It is a different meaning.

Now German combines these meanings. When you come to the word gross--- they used to call me when I was in Germany-- I weighed about 30 lbs. less than I do now--they used to call me what would be literally translated as a great, slender man. We would in English speak of anyone being large, slender. Gross can mean tall. It can mean outstanding. But it doesn't mean big. They would use the word corresponding to our "thick" for that in German. But to speak of someone being a big, slender fellow sounds foolish to us.

The words in English and in German do not exactly fit together. In most cases what is contained in the word is different from what you might say is the translation. Things are contained in that that are not in this. If that's true of the relation between English and German, how much more of the relation between English and Greek! or Hebrew! Words are not precise in themselves.

Well, you say in science we have precise language. We express things precisely in science. Well there are certain things you can express precisely in science by using numerals. It's pretty hard to by using words. If we do the words are apt to change their meaning. Suppose that I were to-- to tell you that at the bank they would represent what I have in the bank by a certain figure with a minus sign before it, and what I owed the bank by a certain figure with a plus sign before it, you would say that sounds crazy! But that's exactly what all electricians do. Because when electricity was first discovered it was thought that electricity went in a certain direction and they called the pole from which it went the plus or positive pole; and the one to which it went they called the minus pole or negative pole! That was precise language. Now we know that that is exactly false. Yet electricians don't change their terminology. They say the plus sign is put there because it has