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**“The Transcendental Roots of Knowledge:
Beyond Metaphysics and Empiricism”**

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Modern knowledge grew out of the tension between metaphysical absolutism promoted by organized religion and absolute positivism that aspired to liberate knowledge from religious authority. The Enlightenment succeeded in breaking away from metaphysics only to undermine the transcendental foundation of morality and the fragmentation of human consciousness. The failure of liberalism to provide moral basis and the consequent religious assertiveness in the last couple of decades seems to be pushing in the opposite direction toward a religiously inspired and rationally unmediated knowledge. Such a drive is bound to lead to the reinvigoration of metaphysical speculation and the return of scholasticism. I intend to explore the two competing trends and shed light on the sociopolitical context in which they grow. I will explore an alternative approach to systematic study of the human condition and interactions in which the transcendental and the empirical are methodologically interrelated.