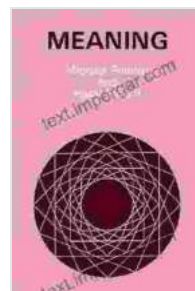


# Meaning Michael Polanyi: A Comprehensive Guide to His Philosophy

Michael Polanyi (1891-1976) was a Hungarian-British philosopher and scientist who made significant contributions to a wide range of fields, including philosophy of science, epistemology, and ethics. He is best known for his theory of personal knowledge, which emphasizes the role of tacit knowledge and personal experience in human understanding.

This article provides a comprehensive overview of Polanyi's philosophy, exploring his key ideas and their implications for our understanding of knowledge, science, and the human condition.

One of Polanyi's central ideas is that all knowledge is ultimately personal. There is no such thing as objective knowledge that is independent of the knower. All knowledge is rooted in our own experiences and interpretations, and it is always influenced by our personal biases and perspectives.



## Meaning by Michael Polanyi

★★★★☆ 4.4 out of 5

Language	: English
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Enhanced typesetting	: Enabled
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Polanyi distinguishes between two types of knowledge: explicit knowledge and tacit knowledge. Explicit knowledge is knowledge that can be articulated and communicated in words or symbols. Tacit knowledge, on the other hand, is knowledge that is difficult or impossible to articulate. It is the kind of knowledge that we have about how to do things, such as riding a bike or playing a musical instrument.

Tacit knowledge is essential for human understanding, but it is often overlooked or underestimated. Polanyi argues that tacit knowledge is the foundation of all explicit knowledge. We cannot learn anything new without first having some tacit knowledge to build on.

Polanyi also emphasizes the role of commitment and faith in human knowledge. He argues that we cannot know anything with certainty, but we can make commitments to what we believe is true. These commitments are based on our faith in the reliability of our senses, our reason, and our fellow human beings.

Faith is not a blind leap into the dark, but rather a reasonable and necessary part of human understanding. It is a willingness to accept that we cannot know everything for certain, but that we can still make progress by committing ourselves to what we believe is true.

Polanyi's philosophy has implications for our understanding of science and the human condition. He argues that science is not a purely objective enterprise, but rather a human activity that is influenced by our personal beliefs and values. Scientists make commitments to what they believe is true, and they test these commitments through experimentation and observation.

Polanyi also argues that science is not the only way of knowing the world. There are other ways of knowing, such as art, religion, and philosophy, that can provide us with valuable insights into the human condition.

Polanyi's philosophy offers a rich and nuanced understanding of human knowledge and the human condition. It challenges the idea that knowledge is objective and certain, and it emphasizes the role of personal experience, commitment, and faith in our understanding of the world around us.

Michael Polanyi was a brilliant and influential philosopher who made significant contributions to our understanding of knowledge, science, and the human condition. His work continues to be studied and debated today, and it offers a valuable perspective on the nature of human understanding.

If you are interested in learning more about Michael Polanyi and his philosophy, I highly recommend reading the following book:

- **Meaning: The Key to Michael Polanyi's Philosophy** by Harry Collins and Robert Evans. This book provides a comprehensive overview of Polanyi's philosophy, exploring its key ideas and their implications for our understanding of knowledge, science, and the human condition.

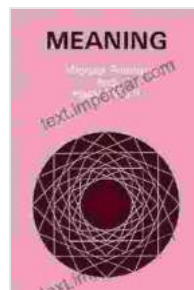
I hope that this article has given you a better understanding of Michael Polanyi and his philosophy. If you have any questions, please feel free to leave a comment below.

### **Alt text for images:**

- Michael Polanyi: A Hungarian-British philosopher and scientist who made significant contributions to a wide range of fields, including

philosophy of science, epistemology, and ethics.

- **Personal Knowledge and Tacit Knowing:** Polanyi argues that all knowledge is ultimately personal and that tacit knowledge is essential for human understanding.
- **The Role of Commitment and Faith:** Polanyi emphasizes the role of commitment and faith in human knowledge.
- **Implications for Science and the Human Condition:** Polanyi's philosophy has implications for our understanding of science and the human condition, arguing that science is not a purely objective enterprise and that there are other ways of knowing, such as art, religion, and philosophy.



### **Meaning** by Michael Polanyi

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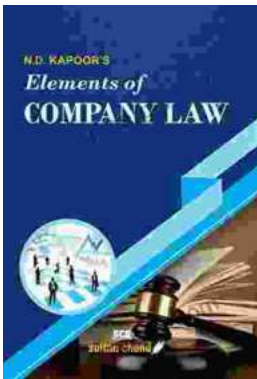
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