

Ontology Precedes Epistemology? | A Drop in the Digital Ocean | A Drop In The Digital Ocean

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In his book [Naming the Elephant](#), James Sire argues that "Ontology must precede epistemology in worldview formulation." He writes:

What counts against putting meaning first is the commonsense notion that something has to be before there can be meaning. A worldview certainly can be "expressed as a semiotic system of narrative signs." But it has to be something else first; it is not created by the signs by which it is understood. The pretheoretical categories themselves seem to be universal: being and not-being (is and isn't) are fundamental and carry truth value; that is, they label something that is not just linguistic. ... So while Christians recognize the symbolic nature of reality, we also realize the substantiality of that which is symbolized. A postmodern can answer, "It's language all the way down." A Christian ought not. [pgs. 71-72]

But is this really so? I would answer that it *is* language all the way down:

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

The "something" that "has to be" is, in the Christian worldview, "language", "meaning", *Logos*. Our worldview must be grounded in the Trinitarian nature of God, where being, meaning, and interpretation are co-eternal and cannot be separated. Or am I missing something?