

**Abstractions from Lonergan's Insight  
A Study of Human Understanding  
On Transcendence**

**We are transcendent beings  
We have the ability to go beyond  
We are empirically conscious beings  
We can work at being alert, attentive, and responsible  
How do we know this?  
We know this from the mere fact that we ask the question  
Asking a question is already going beyond.**

**We are transcendent beings  
We think and we can think about our thinking  
We act, and we can act responsibly  
We imagine and create. We wonder and are amazed.  
We are full of expectations, desires, sadness and joy.  
We have hopes, beliefs and values too.  
And when things do not go our way  
We can check our biases  
We can ask "What's going on?"  
We have the ability to appreciate the given.**

**We are transcendent beings  
We have an unrestricted desire to know  
We are rationally conscious beings  
We ask questions  
But we are not content with just knowing  
When we know someone or know something  
We can ask ourselves "How do I know that this is so?"**

**We are transcendent beings  
We have the ability to go beyond  
We are intelligently conscious beings  
We want to understand and make sense of things  
But we are not content with mere understanding  
Rationally conscious—We want to understand correctly  
We want to make better sense  
We ask the further questions  
We question our questions  
We question our answers**

**As transcendent beings we come to know there are more questions than we have answers.  
Knowing this, we are open to other answers than our own.  
Transcending what we know we take a heuristic approach to what we think and say, feel and do.  
Beliefs we have, what we know, what we understand  
Meanings we give, feelings and opinions we have, judgments we make, things we do  
We treat them all as starting points.  
With a heuristic approach, we work at removing personal, group, and common sense bias.  
Biases that block insights to deeper understandings and suppress the emergence of fresh insights.  
Fresh insights take us to higher viewpoints; lead us to bigger pictures, longer cycles, higher integrations, and more.**

**As transcendent beings we start from how we see things as related to us to how we see things as related to each other.  
We come to realize that we live in a world where "To be, is to be in relationships".  
We come to realize that in a world of relationships and changing relationships, there is no end to knowing.  
And that when we know, we are knowing relationships...Relationships between what's going on in a world inside  
And what's happening in a world outside.**

**We are transcendent beings  
We have the ability to go beyond.  
Empirically conscious, we see, hear, feel, smell, taste—Who knows what else?  
Intelligently conscious, we go from what we experience—what we see, hear, feel, smell, taste, to what we inquire about.  
Rationally conscious, we go from what we inquire about to what we understand.  
And from what we understand to what we reflect on.  
Rationally self-conscious, we go from what we reflect on to what we decide. From what we decide to what we do.  
From what we do to how we do what we do.  
And when we come to know ourselves as rationally self-conscious beings  
We move freely back and forth from sensing to inquiry  
From inquiry to reflection; from understanding to decision, from decision to responsibility  
From responsibility to a heightened sense of self.  
And from a sense of self, to an awareness of self as interdependent  
Interdependent in a world of multidimensional relationships.**