

FROM

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Professor P J Davis  
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Dear Professor Davis,

Thank you for your letter. As you probably know, Valerie and Brian Hayden are at present in this country and I will tell them that I have heard from you.

You ask me for a list of philosophical dreams. Different philosophers would give you different answers but I suggest the following:

1. To find a secure foundation for our claims to knowledge.
2. To agree upon a criterion for deciding what there is.
3. To draw a concrete distinction between necessary and contingent truths. (The truths of mathematics have commonly been taken to be necessary but this has been disputed).

4. To reconcile the scientific account of the physical world with the evidence of the senses.
5. To achieve <sup>an</sup> analysis of judgements of value.
6. To develop an adequate theory of signs.

Yours sincerely,

A. J. Ayer

Sir Alfred Ayer  
Wykeham Professor of Logic