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What is reasoning?

Perhaps it is time for me to address what I understand ‘reasoning’ to be.

Many of my ‘critics’ have accused me of being ‘narrow’ minded. My response to them is simple. I am not. I use ‘reasoning’ to come to the conclusions that I assert.

To begin with: what is reasoning? The definition that I follow is “Thinking that is coherent and logical”. Once you have reasoned something out it becomes ‘knowledge’ and hence no further reasoning is required.

The second point is: how many reasoning ways are there? The answer to this question is three:

1) Deductive - moves from generalized principles that are known to be true to a true and specific conclusion
2) Inductive - moves from specific instances into a generalized conclusion; and
3) Causal - is the process of identifying **causality**: the relationship between a cause and its effect

The third point is: What are the problems associated with each type of reasoning approach?

1) Deductive: A deductive argument is said to be valid if and only if it takes a form that makes it impossible for the premises to be true and the conclusion nevertheless to be false. Otherwise, a deductive argument is said to be invalid”. To understand this type of reasoning you need to understand propositional logic and set theory. Which I do
2) Inductive: an inductive argument in which it is thought that the premises provide reasons supporting the probable truth of the conclusion. In an inductive argument, the premises are intended only to be so strong that, if they are true, then it is unlikely that the conclusion is false. To understand this type of reasoning you need to define all the terms you use. Which I do
3) Causal: Causal relationships may be understood as a transfer of force. If A causes B, then A must transmit a force (or causal power) to B which results in the effect. Causal relationships suggest change over time; cause and effect are temporally related, and the cause precedes the outcome.
   Causality may also be inferred in the absence of a force, a less-typical definition. A cause can be removal (or stopping), like removing a support from a structure and causing a collapse or a lack of precipitation causing wilted plants.
   To understand this type of reasoning you need to find the right cause. Which I do

To finally come up with a definitive solution to a problem, you really need to address all three reasoning methods in order to discover if a mistake was made in any of the reasoning steps. If the results of all three are in agreement, then you can assert you have gained ‘knowledge’. If the results are inconclusive, then you have to ‘think’ again and find out more facts.

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