

# Prolepsis of the gods

Post by “Patrikios” of June 27, 2025 at 3:27 PM

## [Quote from Rolf](#)

Additionally, why is prolepsis necessary for us to know certain things? Isn't it possible that we simply learn them from experience?

[Rolf](#) ,

I love the questions you bring to this topic of prolepsis. As I understand from [Bryan](#) list of English translations of the Greek **prolepsis**, included '**comprehension**'. Experience is essential to learning, but leaves out the other capabilities nature gives humans to achieve deeper levels of understanding & comprehension..

As a senior struggling through many years of experience, trying to become wise, I have come see prolepsis as enabling a 'whole-body comprehension' of whatever objects or concepts. The pattern recognition matching occurs across all sensory data that links together myriad related information. I first read of this type of learning in Robert Heinlein's '**Stranger in a Strange Land**' - where he learns to "grok" something or someone.

*"To **grok** it, understand it so thoroughly that you merge with it and it merges with you. "*

*"**Grok** means to understand so thoroughly that the observer becomes a part of the observed — to merge, blend, intermarry, lose identity in group experience. It means almost everything that we mean by religion, philosophy, and science and it means as little to us as color does to a blind man."*

[Grok - Wikipedia](#)

So, it maybe Heinlein's grok appears to describe some aspects of proleptic comprehension.