Goal-trapping problems

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Abstract
After clarification of terms, an argument outlining the relation of problems with goals follows. The expectation is to show that problems cannot arise separated from goals, that is, that they are intrinsically tied. In order for the argument to function, one must adopt stable definitions of the concepts goal and problem. A clarification of their relation allows us to handle problems more efficiently through realizing why there can be agreement or disagreement regarding what is and what is not a problem for different observers.

1. Introduction
How are problems and goals related? People are familiar with the notion of handling problems, yet disagreements sometimes surge regarding what is and what is not a problem. If problems stood by themselves, there would be no reason for such to happen; agreements regarding the nature of problems would be unavoidable. The fact that disagreement exists suggests that problems are tied to something else, and this something else appears to be goals.

Term clarification, however, is needed to progress. It is not in this work’s intention to define the concepts goal and problem in an uncontroversial fashion, but rather solely provide definitions for them that are commonly used. If the reader disagrees with the content of the definitions, the argument does not follow. Once the argument is comprehended, observers are expected to be capable of identifying why they are considering something as a problem, that is, what given goal of theirs turns the something into one.

2. Definitions, relation, proof
Consider the following definitions: (I) goal – the purpose toward which an endeavor is directed; (II) problem – a state of difficulty. The relation stands as: a state of difficulty can only arise once a purpose toward which an endeavor is directed is defined.

There are three main ways or proving the relation. One could use: (1) problem freedom – impossibility of providing a problem which regardless of the goal is a problem; (2) goal closure – utilizing a certain problem, changing to any different goal and realizing the problem will not always remain a problem or remain of the same importance, varying with the goal; (3) picturing an aimless observer and realizing the impossibility of pointing what is surely a problem for him.

3. Conclusion
The lack of agreement regarding what constitutes a problem and what does not made us think that problems do not stand by themselves, which finally lead to the idea that they are tied with goals. Whenever lack of agreement regarding whether something is or is not a problem appears the observers are advised to share their goals.