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**Abstract:** This essay moves through Husserl's transcendental phenomenology toward ordinal phenomenology which rejects the centrality of subjectivity. The concept of "horizon" is probed in its phenomenal and historical forms and shown to be inadequate for a broader phenomenology that honors the innumerable orders of nature. The concept of "contour" is shown to have greater power and precision as applied to any possible object' of phenomenology and thus to avoid the limitations found in the concept of "horizon." Essentialism gives way before an analysis of traits as they obtain within and among contours. Ordinal phenomenology is compared to Dewey and Wittgenstein.

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