

In The Name Of God

Philosophy
And
Communication

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Introduction

Philosophy is the mother of all sciences. A brief look at the history of the birth and growth of modern sciences would suffice for everyone to find out that each of them has directly or indirectly derived from philosophy in different ways during its developing process. In other words, the prime source or starting point of all the main branches of sciences is philosophy.

The ancient sages, especially the Greek philosophers who tried to learn about the realities of the world and eventually find an answer to the riddle of existence, based on their social conditions, their own interests and mentalities, as well as the knowledge and experience of their ancestors, either knowingly or unknowingly provided the necessary ground for the emergence of the different sciences.

It should be mentioned that what separates the Greek philosophers from the other ancient sages, including the Chinese and Indian philosophers is their

specific approach towards the phenomena. In fact, the Greeks were the first ones who managed to study the world and man in a relatively objective manner by distancing themselves from the mythological and superstitious thoughts of the time.

Of course, each of the Ancient Greek philosophers paced on different paths depending on his class, social conditions, personality and disposition. For example, some like Socrates were adamant to grasp the real meaning of a happy life, and some others tried to find out the secrets about the genesis of the globe.

What brought them together to be known as "philosophers" was their holistic approach towards the world. In other words, all their efforts were focused on giving a universal and satisfactory picture of the world.

It should be noted that the philosophers used different methods and symbols in order to attain their ultimate goal namely "the explanation of the world" and each of them focused on either one aspect out of various aspects of existence or some specific points relating to the matter.

The existing sciences were indeed born from the same fields chosen by the philosophers as their own area of interest. Methodology and the use of scientific methods in investigating phenomena which are a

product of the renaissance era also emerged along this hard and bumpy road.

Although these sciences began to separate from philosophy one after another throughout the history, none of them has ever been able to be independent in a real sense from it; because their full independence would mean a complete separation from the world of existence which is impossible and meaningless.

The fact is that the separation of sciences from philosophy does not mean "isolation" for them. No science can either exist or be meaningful in isolation. The borderlines separating sciences are quite conventional and schematic. They have been set just for more concentration on each science as well as avoiding distraction; no borders are conceivable in reality among different sciences.

The role of philosophy is undoubtedly the most important, for it is still the mother of all the sciences and would have the last say. It is just like that the mother has left each of her children alone in separate rooms to do their homework carefully and in depth, and report her in the end.

This mother would naturally say her last word about the riddle of existence based on the research results of her children. No doubt, the mother and her

children form a whole; none of them can ever be an independent being.

The separation of sciences from philosophy is indeed a kind of mission given to them in order that each one can move in harmony with the others towards the common goal which is to understand and explain the world. This means that all sciences serve philosophy in different ways.

It should be, of course, noted that what is going on in the world at present is quite different. It suffices to take a brief look at the position of philosophy in the West. It can be said with confidence that philosophy, in a real sense, is one of the most overlooked and isolated disciplines at the US and European universities.

In the Western capitalist societies, not only has philosophy lost its central position as the mother of sciences, but it has also begun to distance itself more and more from the realities of existence and people's life. It is about to make its way towards the museums due to being regarded as an ancient and forsaken branch.

The position of philosophy, compared to some branches such as commerce, marketing and commercial management which are fully at the service of capitalism, has fallen so much that

positivists regard it as something similar to "linguistics" and existentialists consider it "just playing with words" by using the term "philosophizing".

Today, philosophy is nothing but some texts full of lengthy and complicated words and expressions. It is not an easy task to understand the contemporary bourgeois philosophies such as existentialism and logical positivism. Even most of university graduates are unable to grasp them. Perhaps, this is the main reason behind the hatred most of people feel in the West towards philosophy.

Although "logical positivism" is easier to understand due to its reliance on some tangible realities, its agnostic nature leads the exponents of positivism to ridiculous results through their so-called "logical and linguistic" analyses. For example, they deliberately leave a large number of philosophical questions without answers considering them "meaningless".

It is interesting to know that most of common people in the Western capitalist countries bear queer images of philosophers in their minds. For example, they are of the opinion that a philosopher is a strange one who lives far from people and speaks a language that is not understandable to everyone! In

fact, a good philosophy is a complicated one which cannot be understood by anyone!

No need to say philosophy has been one of the most oppressed sciences in the West, because capitalism on the whole has no interest in deep thoughts about the world and man's ultimate goals in life. It is no secret that superficial thinking and reliance on instant delights of life are among the main principles of the bourgeois ideologies.

Generally speaking, those thoughts and notions that are considered to be obstacles in the way of the existing crazy consumerism would have no position in capitalism. Such thoughts are usually subjected to various blames and attacks from everywhere in different ways and forced into an isolated corner like philosophy.

Interestingly, some of philosophy's children namely sciences have had even worse and sadder fates. For example, communication science has been in the captivity of capitalism from the very beginning and subjected to ruthless exploitation until now.

Some people simplistically consider the Western capitalist countries "the cradle of sciences and arts" whereas they are in fact the prison of real sciences and arts. If the scientific branches had supposedly tongues and could speak of their sad destinies,

everyone would find out how they had been misused for the exploitation and killing of innocent people throughout the world!

The communication science in its modern form which emerged at the threshold of the 20th century along with the development of the mass media, was attended and exploited by the US and European capitalists from the very beginning. Thus its importance began to increase day after day.

Today, it is no secret that the mass media which could serve people's interests all over the world, has turned into the most important weapon in the hands of the Western capitalists. Resorting to lying and subtle manipulation and distortion of the news and information as well as with the help of vast mass communication facilities at their monopolized disposal they try to impose their profit-seeking and inhuman ideologies on people.

The misery of the communication science stems from the fact that its birth time coincides with the emergence of "imperialism", the highest point of capitalism and from the very beginning its bloody paws began to grip the innocent branch's throat.

It should not be, of course, forgotten that the fate of other sciences was not better than the communication's. Social sciences and humanities in

particular have been subjected to oppression too. Who doesn't know that those scientists or artists, who are not at the service of capitalism, have always been exposed to disrespect and mistreatment in different ways?!

In present capitalist societies, disregard for philosophy in particular and deep thoughts towards man and the world in general was so much that most of educated people not only feel no need towards philosophical subjects but they sometimes mock and humiliate philosophy and philosophers.

Unfortunately, in today's world, it is not few the number of those who are quite unaware of the philosophy and depth of the science in which they are involved. In other words, they don't know at all why they are studying that certain science and what its real concept is!

The necessity of philosophical knowledge and view is more felt especially in the field of social sciences and humanities; because it is not possible to study them in depth and theoretically without relying on philosophy. On the other hand, it is an undeniable fact that some social and natural scientists and experts' unawareness of philosophy has been a main reason for their temptation by capitalists and profit-seekers.

The purpose of this book is to take a brief look at the interactions between philosophy and communication science throughout the history of the West. Perhaps, through this attempt we would be able to find out the reasons behind the isolation of philosophy as well as the existing situation of "communication" in the Western societies.

It should be mentioned that the main focus in this book would be on the Ancient Greek philosophy because, firstly all contemporary philosophies spring from that, secondly the study of the entire history of philosophy is impossible in this small book.

I hope this scant script would cast a little light on philosophy as the mother of sciences and its ultimate goal. There is no doubt; of course this is just an introduction to such a great and complicated subject. Esteemed experts' guidance and criticism would be highly welcomed by the author.