

Horizon and History.

1. An enlargement of the significance of the existential gap. Not merely a matter of a difficult and doubtful technique in the study of the totality of philosophies, but a critical issue within the historical process. Existential gap is not merely a call to authenticity of subject in his private existence; it is a call to authenticity in all subjects, an invitation to understanding at a critical moment in human history, a summons to decisiveness, an exploration of the techniques of communication. (Existentialists write novels, plays).

History: as total field of human operations in this life.

2. Begin from notion of dialectic.

Familiar: dialectic of an idea; eg dialectic of rigour: exclude casual insights; axiomatization; paradoxes; new basis. Unfamiliar: dialectic of a reality, of man, of history.

Still, if dialectic of an idea, there is some dialectic of man, of history

Not of man as what recurs by reproduction; no transmission of acquired characters.

But of man as technical, social, cultural; for in these respects, what man is, results from man's ideas on man.

Man as technical, as using tools: not merely satisfies animal necessities, but creates human environment, the city, the state, as a totality of material products facilities

Man as social, as organizing and organized; institutions such as family, education, economic system, political system, ~~xxxxxxxx~~ systems of alliances and enmities

Man as cultural (culture in anthropological sense): the current effective totality of

immanently produced and symbolically communicated contents of imagination, emotion, sentiment; of inquiry, insight, conception; of reflection, judgment, valuation; of decision, implementation.

In these respects man a presupposes nature but b makes himself by taking thought.

Man as technical social cultural is difference between aggregate of babies born and abandoned in jungle and the aggregate of human beings ~~man~~ operating in a civilization.

3. The Objective Functioning of the Dialectic.

a There is a circuit, a mutual causation, in man's making of man as technical social cultural

The objective situation (technical social cultural) is at once a product of and an occasion for

imagination, sentiment, emotion; inquiry, insight, conception; reflection judgment evaluation; decision policy implementation

b As product, the objective situation ~~man~~ objectifies, reveals, what ~~man~~ man has been feeling thinking deciding about man.

As occasion, the objective situation suggests and motivates changes in what man has been feeling thinking deciding

3 con'd.

c In so far as there is an effective existential gap, an operative limited horizon, the situation as product will objectify and reveal the existential gap in overemphases and oversights but the situation as occasion will be powerless to suggest and motivate the correct solutions, remedies, as long as existential gap remains; hence, situation progressively deteriorates; more and more liberal use of useless solutions, remedies in the limit, either existential gap is closed, or else the civilization liquidates itself.

4. Resolute and Effective Intervention in the Dialectic.
participates

a Everyone ~~interacts~~: everyone contributes to the production of human situations; everyone has to respond to the human situations in which he finds himself.

Still such ~~interaction~~ participation may be mere drifting: one does not understand what is going on; one has no clue as to what is wrong; one has no idea what one could effectively do about it.

Man as historical, man as making man, ^{is in a dream land} is beyond man's horizon.

b Resolute and effective intervention presupposes subjects in which the existential gap has been closed; else they will merely increase the confusion and accelerate the doom.

Resolute and effective intervention means that these subjects do not remain within an ivory tower admiring their own deeper profundity, the incomprehension of the mass of men

c Resolute and effective intervention heightens the operation of the dialectic.

The situation objectifies the existential gap; intervention crystallizes the objectification; it is there; it is obscurely evident to everyone; but it is not articulable, it is unexpressed, it is not effectively noticed

The situation suggests and motivates the necessary changes in the subject; intervention clarifies the suggestion and ~~it~~ drives home the motivation; clarifies, by linking old errors with present evils; drives home, to ~~xxx~~ retain errors is to perpetuate evils.

Intervention constitutes the correction by communication:
 1. what man felt thought decided made things as they are
 2. different feelings thoughts decisions will make them different
 3. communication results in different feelings thoughts decisions

5. The Essence of the Dialectic.

a Lies in a conflict between what man is, is to be, and what man feels thinks he is, is to be.

Objectification is of what man thinks; but the objectification is also a revelation of overemphases and oversights, in so far as there is a conflict between man's plans for himself and what man really is

Revelation is motivation for change, in so far as what man has made of himself is in conflict with what man really is

b The dialectic then does not operate within the field of concepts and judgments, terms and propositions; it is not based on a conflict between opposing philosophies.

It is based on a conflict between any defective philosophy (implicit or explicit) and what man really is, is to be.

c The verdict of the dialectic is not a label of approval on a philosophy;

it lies in the facts of the situation, in its tensions, its basic hopefulness, its ultimate desperateness, its stimulus to affirmation or its imposition of nihilism

(nihilism: don't care; what happens to me, to man, could not mean less than it does to me)

Still the facts are significant only to those whose horizon does not preclude knowledge of what it is to be a man

If the facts are not significant, then they are destructive of societies; because the effective horizon continually forces a misinterpretation of the facts.

6. In first lecture, concluded that there exists a valid and important field of inquiry concerned with subject in his immediacy, obnubilation, capacity for change, authenticisty, freedom, responsibility.

Now must further conclude that ~~manum~~ such a field is also relevant to man as technical social cultural

History is concerned to bring to light ~~the~~ man as he really is; hence to study this generalized existential field is to get to the heart of historical process

Again, study of horizons eliminates the horizon that keeps man as historical beyond one's field of vision.

CMIT

6.

Situation : vs Order determined by fixed essences in hierarchy

Kairos : what it is up to us alone to do alone

Charity : love neighbor; not prefer high values in order
vs limit on possible action set by abstract ethics

order ≡ personal relations

order ≡

mechanical	structure
metaphysical	
legal	

Tension