

Deals with conflicts

overt or latent

in rlg sources, tradition, authoritative pronouncements, theol writings

contrary orientations of research, contrary interpr, history, ~~foundat~~

~~doctrines, systems, policies~~ styles of evaluation, horizons,

doctrines, systems, policies

Not all opposition dialectical

genetic differences - mistakes overcome through further data

PERSPECTIVAL DIFFERENCES

radical oppositions that will not be overcome by fresh data

that will interpret the new data in radically diff ways

Horizon

'o 'orizon kuklos

the range of one's interests and knowledge

beyond the horizon : one does not know and one cares even less

within horizon: what one knows all about; one's field, interest, concern

what one knows about but has not studied in any detail

complementary , genetic, dialectically opposed

what is within is organized; context

enables to give reasons for goals, clarify amplify qualify statements, explain deed

capacity for further development - also limitation, what we are not prepared for

Conversions and Breakdowns

horizontal exercise of freedom - occurs within established horizon

vertical exercise - moves one out of established horizon

continuous vertical - does not ~~repudiate~~ repudiate the past

conversion - involves an about-face -

intellectual conversion - overcomes cognitional myth -

criteria of world of immediacy applied to world mediated

moral conversion - guided by values even when conflict with satisfactions

rlg conversion - love of God w whole heart - Rom 5 5

order of exposition i m r - order of occurrence - r m i

breakdowns - inverse of conversion

conversion slow and solid growth - breakdown can be rapid

Newman's theorem - ignorance of part, mutilation of whole, distortion of compensating remainder

The Issue

There two kinds of history: narrative, what happened, what was going forward
 evaluative, right and wrong, praise and blame
 functional specialty on third level, judgements of fact
 has to be complemented on fourth level with evaluation / lives"
 Friedrich Meinecke: ev. hist. "... gives us the content wisdom and signposts of our
 Carl Becker": "The value of history is.. not scientific but moral; by liberating
 the mind, by deepening the sympathies, by fortifying the will, it enables
 us to control not society but ourselves -- a much more important thing;
 it prepares us to live more humanely in the present and to meet rather than
 to foretell the future."

There are two kinds of interpretation: coming to understand the exact meaning of text
 responding to values presented by text
 functional specialty grasped the thing, the words, the author, oneself
 it has to be complemented by evaluative interpretation

Further there is the insufficiency of these functional specialties
 Critical history promises univocal results only if historians operate out of
 the same standpoint; but standpoints are many, and the many are of different kinds
 What is one to do about conflicting histories
 conflicts due to ongoing process: to be eliminated when fresh data uncovered
 due to perspectivism: just complexity of history, not real conflict
 due to presence and absence of int mor rlg conversion
 Interpretation depends on interpreter's self understanding
 if converted he will have a different self to understand - diff interpret

The Problem

Scientific method has been following an ideal of automatically secured advance
 by having mathematicians do their thinking
 by controlling hypotheses by inferences, experimentation, checking
 The human sciences often seek the same goal by reductionism /rat.
 B.F. Skinner: you have a psychological explanation if you can have it in a robot or a
 The human and certainly the theological problem is the value judgement
 how can one surmount conflicting value judgements

The Structure

On upper level: operators = Develop positions; Reverse counter-positions
 Positions are statements compatible with int mor rlg conversion
 they are developed by being integrated with fresh data and a further discovery
 Counter-positions are statements incompatible with either int or mor or rlg conversion
 they are reversed when made compatible with all three conversions

On the lower level: the materials

Assembly = researches performed, interpretations proposed, histories written
the events statements movements to which they refer

Completion = adds evaluative interpretation and evaluative history

Comparison = examines completed assembly, seeks affinities and oppositions

Reduction = finds the same affinity and the same opposition manifested in many ways
reduces them to their root

Classification = which oppositions arise from pos and counter-pos
which have other grounds

Selection = picks out the oppositions from position and counter-position
drops the rest

$\frac{1}{2}$

This work of assembly completion comparison reduction classification opposition
will be performed by different theologians

A second level dialectic will examine their results for compl compar red class slec

Further each will determine

which side of an opposition is position, and which is counter-position

how to develop the position

how to reverse the counter-position

This will objectify whether or not each theologian is int mor rlf converted

if he is converted, he will know what conversion means

he will call positions positions

developing them will improve them

he will call counter-positions counter-positions

reverseing them will improve them

Dialectic Method

if he is not converted, he will have only a notional apprehension of conversion

he will call positions counter-positions and vice versa

developing counter-positions makes them worse

reversing positions makes them worse

there is achieved an objective expression of subjectivity

Dialectic as Method

A method is a ~~mut~~ normative set of related and recurrent operations with cumulative and progressive results

We have outlined a set of operations that are related that can recur but what about the cumulative and ~~pe pe~~ progressive results

First there is not achieved the automatically secured advance of method in natural sc

Secondly, such secured advance is not to be expected

we have moved beyond the realm of natural science

we are meeting persons, acknowledging the values they represent, scrutinizing deficiencies in int or mor or rlg conversion

to validate our judgements before others we have to objectify our own subjectivity

to offer others grounds for agreeing that we know the diff between pos and c-pos

we do so inasmuch as developing pos results in improvement

as reversing c-pos results in improvement

Thirdly, the method of itself will not bring about conversion

that is aa profound change in a person's living feeling judging

Fourthly, it will enable the converted to recognize one another

it will give them grounds for suspecting the unconverted

it will encourage the imperfectly converted to seek fuller conversion