

Positions are to be developed, counterpositions reversed

I Root (1) whoever inquires, understands, thinks, reflects, judges

uses the real mind that God gave him or her
to which there corresponds the ‘real’ to be known

position(2) whoever truly knows in accord with inquiry, understanding, thinking

- (a) correctly directs his/her own operations
- (b) correctly interprets what is known through the operations
- (c) harmony between (1) and (2)

counter-(3)whoever erroneously conceives inquiry, understanding, thinking, reflection, judgment

- (a) falsely directs his/her operations
- (b) falsely interprets what is known through the operations
- (c) has a minimal grasp of his/her own mind
hence more or less open conflict

II Counterpositions because of their internal incoherence

are easily changeable [not in one and the same mind but in the succession of generations]

A prior error is rejected

but truth is not thereby attained

The second position is against the first, and this contrariety is somehow intrinsic. Thus counterpositions are not only against the truth regarding understanding and reality but also they fight one against another.

III Thus historical investigation – a superior heuristic principle
can discover [and] should seek out such seriations

in other words

(1) there is objectively given a certain dialectic which joins doctrines among themselves, their successors, and their opposites

(2) the one investigating them knows how they stand the dialectical aspect
(3) whence he completes the unifications made immediately from the data

themselves

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IV Third methodological aspect

(a) the investigator is someone in the historical process

(b) but interpretation can be a position [or] a counterposition in the series of interpretations

(c) there are diverse methods

(i) the immediate interconnection of data in individual authors

(ii) reduction to ‘sources’

what the sources mean is found from other sources

(iii) a higher dialectical interconnection is found
 in accord with this or that philosophy or theology
 there is excluded such a method in accord with some philosophy