

The Flourishing Earth Philosophy

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To begin by contrasting this philosophy with the Modernist philosophy of Francis Bacon, Rene Descartes, Thomas Hobbes, John Locke, David Hume, Immanuel Kant, *et al.* The Modernist philosophy faces two charges: 1) It is theoretically incorrect, and 2) It is disastrous in its results.

1. It is theoretically incorrect in being incomplete by design. It is incomplete in omitting values and the transcendent. The philosophy of modern science can say nothing about values. For example, it can explain how to make nuclear power, but not how to use it well. It can say nothing about the transcendent—that which cannot be expressed by mathematics, by language, or by any concepts. Further, its keynote is an insistence that only its formulations have validity.
2. It is disastrous in its results in that this philosophy has directly led to the cataclysmic destruction of the natural world, and to climate change.

This philosophy should be jettisoned without delay and replaced with a holistic philosophy. One such philosophy is a reformulated Neoplatonist philosophy, expressed perhaps most completely in the Symbolic Theology of Dionysius the Areopagite. This philosophy has two pillars:

1) All things are connected: all things are one. 2) All things strive for wholeness, for completion.

1. The realm of material reality is only a part of the complete system of interrelatedness which functions through the realm of suprasensuous intellect. The material realm is a crude, lower part of the entire cosmic reality. Like all things, it is good in itself, and in its proper place.
2. Wholeness and completion are usually referred to in human terms as wisdom, enlightenment, theosis, or divine union. In reality, there are no separate objects, no wisdom, enlightenment, theosis, or divine union: there is only the One, which, in the words of Dionysius, is supertranscendent to that which transcends all that exists or that could possibly exist or not exist. The primary name of the One is Good, because existence is good; but in fact the One cannot be called good; it cannot be said that it exists or does not exist. It is beyond all such concepts. The formula of Dogen Zenji summarizes it well. Paraphrased it is, This philosophy is to study the self. To study the self is to forget the self. To forget the self is to see oneself as all things. There is a direction, a goal, that all things pursue. That direction and goal is self-actualization, wholeness and completion; in a word, love.

There is one requirement for humans to fulfill this philosophy, and that is to learn to control the mind. It is remarkable that the fact that humans cannot control their own mind, but are controlled by their mind, is so little noticed by humans. In fact, one is not a human being until one can control the mind. That is, until one can control discursive thought and use discursive thought as the tool of nondiscursive perception in attaining the goal of self-actualization. When this ability has been mastered—an ability that is equivalent to the development of bipedalism, the use of tools, and of symbolic language—then one has completed human development. At this point one can no longer be considered a “human being”, having transcended such a partial conceptualization of identity, and having seen that all things are one, beyond concepts, beyond all separa-

tion. Seen from below there is separation. Seen from above there is only the One. Both of these views are correct. It is not correct, it is a guarantee of disaster, to omit one of these views.

It is recommended that a sort of Truth and Reconciliation hearings be held to examine the failure of Modernist philosophy, and how, despite its intentional, known, and acknowledged incompleteness, it attained complete domination of what was considered legitimate knowledge. The mistake is not in the gaining of scientific knowledge, but in the arrogant insistence that only such partial knowledge is legitimate. The purpose of such hearings would be to assure that humans never make such a mistake again.

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The book *The Flourishing Earth: A Vision of Humans Who Are Wise*, is available at amazon.com