

On philosophia and philophronesis

There have been many revolutions in the labels of notions during our history. For instance, our current notion of science developed from the latin word “scientia”, meaning ‘knowledge’.

Now, the interesting thing is that this notion of science did get some other meaning during the last century only. Before the 19th century, the word science did really only mean “knowledge” and the word ‘scientist’ did not exist at all. Actually, before the 19th century natural philosophy was the label for the field of study that is now called natural science.

In latin language, “knowledge’ was “scientia”. This greek word of ‘knowledge’ is a label for something that is less sophisticated than wisdom. In greek language, wisdom was called “sophia” or “phronesis”, depending on the contents and character of this wisdom. Although I am not fully aware of the character of knowledge described by the latin notion of “scientia”, it is quite interesting to reflect on these different notions and the changes in perspective of them starting during the 19th century.

It is clear that the new meaning of “scientia” , that goes far beyond mere knowledge AND wisdom, also involved a repositioning of the notion and art of philosophy. Science has a meaning that not only goes beyond knowledge and wisdom, but beyond every understandings and wisdoms you could think of. Not because of it’s label which is still latin for knowledge, but because of it’s much broader contents.

Now, philosophy is a notion that originated from the greek notion of philo and sophia. Philo meaning the love of or friendship, and sophia meaning wisdom. Philosophia- ‘love of wisdom’ or ‘friends of wisdom’

There however still is not general usage of the word **philophronesis**. Yes, there is a meaning of this notion in current times. But, this meaning is not the most entelychistic and great one, according to me. Let alone the current meaning of the notion of philophronesis, just let me explain what it SHOULD mean.

It is quite well know among scientists, especially philosophers, what the differences are in the greek notions of sophia and phronesis. Sophia being theoretical wisdoms, while phronesis means practical wisdom. It is however often not really truly understood that sophia is also mainly rationally oriented, by that lacking some real true values of our universes. This is also reflected in some of the main works and orientations of well-known philosophers of the past. Being persons like Plato, Aristotle, René Descartes, Baruch Spinoza, John Locke, David Hume, Immanuel Kant.

Fact is, that although in philosophy also irrational and “illogic “ aspects of our universe are discussed, the main perspective is on rationality and theoretical wisdoms. While phronesis, a much more sophisticated and evolved level of wisdom, is not really truly explored and researched by philosophy. It is, to certain extends. But this explorations is still in infantry stages, not the least because of the fact that too many philosophers lack enough capabilities and insights to get towards the levels of real true understandings, the levels of artistry.

Which is why I want to introduce the notion of philophronesis meaning the branch of science that concentrates on developing and exploring the sophisticated notion of phronesis. Philophronesis here means ‘love of practical wisdom’ as opposed to philosophia meaning ‘love of theoretical wisdom’. So actually, this introduction of philophronesis with this new meaning (love of practical wisdom) also means some redefinition and meaning of philosophy/philosophia.

To move from universals of philosophy towards the more sophisticated and evolved wisdoms for specificities, universities have to evolve into multiversities. By this notion, I mean anotherness concept than the commonly known meaning of multiversity. Which is a university with numerous affiliated institutions. My notion of multiversity is much broader than that. Multiversities to my understandings are universities not concentrating on knowledge ,theories, universals and general cases. But on phronesis, involving specific cases, specific cases and wisdom. It encompasses among others a shift from focus from theoretical to practical. By that, making an art from whatever sciences. It is the final step needed to get towards more sane and complete universes as a whole.