

The Daseinsanalytic Openness and the Socratic “not knowing”

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Hermeneutic phenomenology provides us with the insight that every individual human being, is influenced by the mentality and ideas of his certain culture and epoch. What is considered as normal and abnormal mirrors to a large degree the thinking of his specific cultural and historical context. The characteristic feature of each context is the method, the way we are after things. It is the method applied which determines how we perceive and experience reality. Since there are no pure facts to be discovered but facts of a “world” (Dasein as always “being-in-the-world”) which is "created" by means of a method, it follows that it is the method which decides normal and abnormal, what we trace and discover, what can become an object of our perception and what not.

Nowadays we cannot but recognize the degree of influence being exerted on all of us by the specifically modern attitude, subsumed under the scientific- technical method. In our times, the measure which modern man has come to apply to the “world” is the scientific- technical method of positivism with its ideal of "objective reality" and "objective facts".

The determining power of the technical method suppresses uniqueness and promotes likeness in the service of greater efficacy. It dominates our thinking in such a way that everybody and everything is no longer valued in its uniqueness but is viewed in its importance to achieve a certain goal or serve a purpose beyond itself. Everything, including man, is considered as object to be used, ready and available to be manipulated, consumed, and discarded. To be able to encounter reality in ways and forms not amenable to technical thinking, a dialogue with a different kind of

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