

Philosophy, Language and Science - Journal

Day 4, 1/01/2023

Today's class was on the third branch of philosophy- Logic. A person must wonder if they are putting their knowledge to its best use and if they are contributing to the society. Not everyone can achieve this though because it requires a philosophical vision and bend of mind. The case of Sethu Lakshmi Bayi was discussed, a queen regent whose rule transformed Travancore. A philosophical understanding of knowledge, power and organization is developed by few individuals such as Subroto Bagchi, the co-founder of Mindtree which allows them to nurture and groom young minds. Logic is an important branch of philosophy where we study about the scope and nature of logic. For the average man, their level of argument is just retaliatory reactions to keywords. Ancient India had a refined style of argumentation known as Tarka Satra. Tarka means argument, while Sastra means command. In this style of reasoning, a person carefully studies the other person and prepares an arsenal for his response. Samskara means looking for ways to improve oneself and it consists of 16 rules. The question of whether logic was innate or acquired was discussed. Every class begins in potential disaster but doesn't happen so because logically there is a possibility of mutually beneficial transaction between the professor and student. The case of a Logical Trap was also discussed, wherein our fixation with logic makes us expect a particular behavior and when our expectations are subverted, we cheer for it. The Belgian painter, Rene Magritte's painting was discussed where the painting was just a visual representation of the pipe and not the actual pipe itself.

The highlights of this class were the power and diplomacy required by Sethu Laskmi Bayi which allowed her to start a school for girls in Nagercoil, opening up temples for all communities, buildings roads connecting the north and setting up a drinking water plant. Subroto Bagchi, calls himself the gardener as he guides and nurtures young people in his organization. In areas like Law where rules are purely logical, there are cases when logic thumps justice.

My key takeaways from this class were that how logic is the branch of philosophy most relatable to us. We are so conditioned and encrusted by logic due to which we are habituated to not think outside the box. We are just passers by in this world and we should leave the world at a better place than what it was before. From the painting of the pipe, we understand that there are times when we are too logical which might cause a lapse in judgement.

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