

2003-1 Translation

1- Human beings in all times and places think about their world and wonder at their place in it.

Humans are thoughtful and creative, possessed of insatiable curiosity.

41) Furthermore, humans have the ability to modify the environment in which they live, thus subjecting all other life forms to their own peculiar ideas and fancies.

Therefore, it is important to study humans in all their richness and diversity in a calm and systematic manner, with the hope that the knowledge resulting from such studies can lead humans to a more harmonious way of living with themselves and with all other life forms on this planet Earth.

2- “Anthropology” derives from the Greek words *anthropos* “human” and *logos* “the study of.”

By its very name, anthropology encompasses the study of all humankind.

3- Anthropology is one of the social sciences.

42) Social science is that branch of intellectual enquiry which seeks to study humans and their endeavors in the same reasoned, orderly, systematic, and dispassioned manner that natural scientists use for the study of natural phenomena.

4- Social science disciplines include geography, economics, political science, psychology, and sociology.

Each of these social sciences has a subfield or specialization which lies particularly close to anthropology.

5- All the social sciences focus upon the study of humanity.

Anthropology is a field-study oriented discipline which makes extensive use of the comparative method in analysis.

43) The emphasis on data gathered first-hand, combined with a cross-cultural perspective brought to the analysis of cultures past and present, makes this study a unique and distinctly important social science.

6- Anthropological analyses rest heavily upon the concept of culture.

Sir Edward Tylor's formulation of the concept of culture was one of the great intellectual achievements of 19th century science.

44) Tylor defined culture as "... that complex whole which includes belief, art, morals, law, custom, and any other capabilities and habits acquired by man as a member of society."

This insight, so profound in its simplicity, opened up an entirely new way of perceiving and understanding human life.

Implicit within Tylor's definition is the concept that culture is learned, shared, and patterned behavior.

7- 45) Thus, the anthropological concept of "culture," like the concept of "set" in mathematics, is an abstract concept which makes possible immense amounts of concrete research and understanding.