价值与文化

Values & Culture

北京师范大学价值与文化研究中心《价值与文化》编委会

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前言

由北京师范大学价值与文化研究中心和美国过程研究中 心共同举办的"价值哲学与过程哲学国际学术研讨会",于 2002年6月17日至20在北京举行。这次会议的主题是,研 讨价值哲学与过程哲学的重大课题,探讨怀特海过程哲学与 中国文化的关系,以及二者对人类文明的发展可能做出的贡 献。大会中方主席为北京师范大学价值与文化研究中心主任 袁贵仁教授和常务副主任韩震教授,大会外方主席为美国过 程研究中心创会主任小约翰·科布(John B. Cobb Ir.)博士和 执行主任大卫·格里芬(David Rav Griffin)教授。来自美国、 加拿大、法国、澳大利亚、比利时、奥地利、日本、韩国、印度等 国以及中国大陆和港澳台地区的 160 多位中外专家学者参加 了会议,会议共收到论文百余篇。会议期间,小约翰·科布博 士、韩震教授、大卫·格里芬教授、费劳德先生、赵敦华教授、冯 平教授、欧阳康教授等先后作了大会主题报告。会议的议题 涵盖了马克思主义哲学、价值哲学、过程哲学、中国传统文化、 后现代主义、全球化、科学、教育、生态环境、企业管理等多方 面的内容。

为了深化和拓展会议相关问题的研究,我们从中挑选了 70余篇有代表性的论文,分价值哲学、过程哲学、社会发展、东 西方文化四部分加以整理出版。同时为了中外学者交流和研 究的方便,除了国外学者的论文一律采用英文形式之外,部分中国学者的论文也采用了英文形式。

由于文章论题广泛,各位专家学者也有着不同的知识背景和专业爱好,加之编者水平所限,文章在选排和编辑上难免存在不妥之处,敬请广大读者批评指正。

北京师范大学价值与文化研究中心 2003年10月

Preface

The conference "Whitehead and China in the New Millennium", co-sponsored by the Center for Studies of Values & Culture of Beijing Normal University and the Center for Process Studies of the United States, was held in Beijing Normal University of China on 17th June, 2002. The conference mainly discussed such issues as values philosophy, process thought, the relationship between Whiteheadian philosophy and Chinese traditional culture, as well as their contributions to human civilization thereof. Yuan Guiren, Director of Center for Studies of Values & Culture, Han Zhen, Executive Director of the Center, and Dr. John B. Cobb Jr., Professor David Ray Griffin from the Center for Process Studies of the United States co-chaired the conference. About 160 experts and scholars from the United States, Canada, France, Australia, Belgium, Austria, Japan, Korea, India, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Macao and the mainland of China attended the meeting. During the conference, Dr. John B. Cobb Jr., Professor Han Zhen, Professor David Ray Griffin, Mr. Ronald P. Phipps, Professor Zhao Dunhua (Peking University), Professor Feng Ping (Fudan University), Professor Ouyang Kang (Huazhong University of Science & Technology), delivered speeches. The theses of the conference are very comprehensive, including Marxist philosophy, values philosophy, process thought, Chinese traditional culture, postmodernism, globalization, science, education, ecological environment and enterprise management, etc.

To push forward the relevant studies, we select more than 70 articles among 100 papers subscribed to the conference and edited them into this book. The whole book consists of four aspects as follows: values philosophy, process thought, social development, East and West. For the conveniences of exchange, the articles by foreign scholars and those by some Chinese scholars are published in English.

In view of the wide topics and different knowledge backgrounds and interests shared by scholars, we editors may have made some inevitable mistakes during selecting and editing. Any critic remarks will be appreciated.

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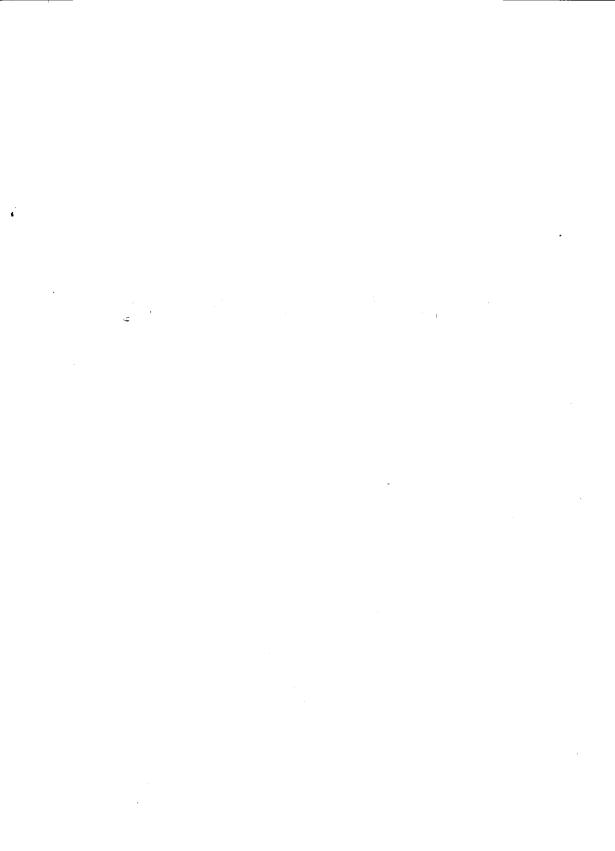
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第一编

价值哲学(Values Philosophy)



The Value of Adventures: One Understanding of Whitehead

Han Zhen

(Center for Studies of Values & Culture of Beijing Normal University, China)

According to A. N. Whitehead (1861—1974), the universe is an infinite, open, dynamic and becoming process, full of diversity, creativity and life. This is particularly so in the case of human society. In essence, human civilization is a creative process with most abundant potentiality.

I . Is Adventurousness Necessary or Not?

To this question, Whitehead's answer is in the affirmative. Both individual growth and social development require creativity and change, which are essentially adventures. So, adventure is inherent in human life and civilization.

As to individuals, "each individual embodies an adventure of existence. The art of life is the guidance of this adventure." Everyone inevitably experiences some valuable adventures in his life. It is these adventures that accelerate his growth. The most adventurous people tend to achieve much more than others. With respect to the whole human society, the development of civilization necessitates diversity and constant changes of its forms. Change and innovation are of first importance to the culture. Change means altering the previously familiar forms, while innovation means venturing into the unknown field whose future can't be predicated. On this account, in his famous *Adventures of Ideas*, Whitehead writes, "adventure belongs to the

① A. N. Whitehead, The Aims of Education & other Essays, The Macmillan Company, New York, 1929, p. 61.

essence of civilization. "^① Whitehead has exactly grasped the character of human civilization, i.e., without healthy adventure, there would be no human evolution and social progress.

A living civilization requires learning, but it lies beyond it. Inheritance is necessary, but not sufficient for the civilization. Only after human beings ventured into the plain from the woods could they produce a completely new civilization. Human beings venturing to move about from one land to another may account for the diversity of culture. We can say that all the achievements in the past can be largely attributed to the adventurousness. To a large extent, history was created by those adventurous people.

Without adventures, there would be no happening; without happening, there would be no future; without future, there would be no new things. The value of adventures lies in its leading to happening, while the value of happening lies in its possibility of opening the future and of stimulating creativity. For Whitehead, the historical progress is embodied in new models being introduced into conceptual experiences to get a different transcendental perspective. Only after we gain a new perspective transcending reality can we enable ourselves to merge into the creative historical process. Hence, in our life, we shouldn't blindly imitate, but give free rein to our imagination and creativity, constantly stepping into the unknown field. Physical wandering is still important, but greater still is the power of man's spiritual adventures. New adventures as in thought, fresh experiences as in emotion and diversification as in the aesthetic experiences can arouse one's enthusiasm and creativity.

Nowadays, everyone will agree that science and technology is the first productive force. In essence, science and technology are just spiritual adventures. Whitehead writes:

Modern science has imposed on humanity the necessity for wandering. Its progressive thought and its progressive technology make the transition through time, from generation to generation, a true migration into uncharted seas of adventure. The very benefit of wandering is

① A. N. Whitehead, Adventures of Ideas, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1947, p. 380.