

Dialogue

A particular mode of *relationship* between *human beings*, or, in a more abstract way, between human beings and their *place*, which can be their natural environment, history, tradition, culture, the present world, or other communities. The dialogue is usually associated with the idea of *conversation* involving participants on an equal footing. In essence, the dialogue implies *mutual* consideration, trust, and readiness to be renewed by otherness. The identity of the *I* starts to shine in the light of the *thou* and, vice versa, the *thou* comes to life in the light of the *I*, not with the aim of preserving differences and similarities, on the contrary, with the aim of letting entities be renewed by facing each other. The dialogue is therefore an ethical *praxis* involving several participants who are open to questioning instead of seeking to impose a scheme to solve problems. The dialogue has a long history and has even played a foundational role in world philosophy. Much of philosophy in the West and Asia emerged from *dialogues*. There are countless examples of dialogues that have given shape to philosophical thinking. The 20th century saw the emergence of all-encompassing philosophies of dialogue that have sought not only to find ways of negotiating with *otherness* but also to explore what it means to lead an authentic existence *in the light* of otherness.

Gerald Cipriani

Main sources:

Dialog of Pessimism (Arad Mitanguranni, ca. 1000 BCE)

The *Mahābhārata* (ca. 500 BCE)

Buddha - *Long Discourses* (6th/5th c. BCE)

Confucius - *The Analects* (論語 *Lunyu*, ca. 500 BCE)

Socrates - *Gorgias* (Γοργίας, ca. 380 BCE)

Seneca - *On the Shortness of Life* (*De Brevitate Vitae*, 1st century)

Augustine – *Soliloquies* (*Soliloquia*, ca. 386)

Yehuda Abrabanel ben Ishaq - *Dialogues of Love* (*Dialoghi di Amore*, ca. 1535)

Nicolas Malebranche - *Dialogue between a Christian Philosopher and a Chinese Philosopher on the Existence and Nature of God* (*Entretien d'un philosophe chrétien et d'un philosophe chinois sur l'existence et la nature de dieu*, 1708)

George Berkeley - *Three Dialogues between Hylas and Philonous* (1713)

Denis Diderot - *Conversation between D'Alembert and Diderot* (1769)

Karl Jaspers - *Socrates, Buddha, Confucius, Jesus* (1962)

Martin Buber - *I and Thou* (*Ich und Du*, 1923)

Nishida Kitaro - *I and Thou* (私と汝 *Watakushi to Nanji*, 1932)

Gabriel Marcel - *Creative Fidelity* (*Du refus à l'invocation*, 1940)

Mikhail Bakhtin, *The Dialogic Imagination: Four Essays* (from Вопросы литературы и эстетики, *Voprosy literaturi y estetiki*, 1975)

Paul Ricoeur - *Oneself as Another* (*Sois-même comme un autre*, 1990)

Tzvetan Todorov - *On Human Diversity: Nationalism, Racism, and Exotism in French Thought* (*Nous et les autres, La reflexion française sur la diversité humaine*, 1989)

Useful link: *Encyclopædia Britannica*

<http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/161272/dialogue>