



REALIZATION OF THE CONCEPT OF “CONSCIENCE” IN PROVERBS

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Annotation: This article delves into the multifaceted concept of conscience, exploring various philosophical interpretations and cultural perceptions throughout history. It begins by highlighting the challenge of defining conscience, noting its diverse interpretations across different cultures and philosophical frameworks. Proverbs are presented as a means of elucidating the concrete and certain nature of conscience, often portraying it as an internal oracle that guides human behavior.

Key words: *realization, concept of “conscience”, interpretation, proverbs, indulgence, internal turmoil, intellectual function.*

Introduction. Throughout the ages, several ideas have been set forth to define “conscience” although many suffer from failings of generalization and universality. Proverbs provide a more nearly semantic twist. The internal oracle is treated as something that gives forth counsel, that may be inquired of and will certainly answer, usually not until it is too late to be of much avail.

It is this characteristic of concreteness and sureness that distinguishes moralizing with all its possible variety in different codes of ethics from any other human mental activity. It is this same attribute that makes the task of isolating conscience in human experience a feasible one. Terminology apart, a significant approach to its delineation is in terms of a sense of duty.

Literature analysis and methodology. In the broadest sense, it is the intricate complex that induces pangs when action is in discord with them. This approach too is not to be identified with any certain form of reflective deliberation; often the most certain and specific commands of conscience are neither traceable to their source nor present themselves to the subject. Reflection upon them comes when there is a need for defense or at a happy time of indulgence in self-righteousness [2]. But being so nearly akin to prevailing common opinions of the nature of conscience, the proverbial material itself repeatedly will include the in the pointing out wherein



conduct has been at variance with settled convictions and verily has been regretted [5].

The final rule for interpreting proverbs is to be exegetical, to speak not on what one knows of the cultural historical background and the life of its people. The thing is far too vast and involved but on the perception of what the specific maxim or mode of speech implies. So a reconstruction of conscience in proverbial lore is an induction from following too implicit enforcements of following rules for happy living [4].

It will argue fruitful, not that the form of conscience instanced anywhere is identical with another, but that the basic presupposition is constant and that the instances are resolved into constants without show of an alien theory altering the subject and the terms he uses as is not infrequent in philosophies of psychology.

This often self-sacrificing help is a direct result of conscience. It is the conscientious decisions of a few that can change the fate of many. On a smaller scale, there are many proverbs which suggest that doing the right thing isn't always rosy, and offers consequences both good and bad. One such proverb is "All's well that ends well" [1]. This is proposition that doing right may encounter pitfalls but will eventuate profit. This follows every person's idea of doing what is perceived as 'good' and avoiding the 'bad', and is a factor in strengthening the morale of society today.

Results. Conscience is a term that has been developed and adapted throughout the millennia, with each philosopher having his or her own interpretation of it. It is a difficult term to define as it is used to describe a wide range of things. One of the most complex and controversial aspects about the word conscience is the idea of whether or not it is driven by reason or emotion [4]. According to Hume, "Tis the voice of reason, self or natural, it is the best of all voices". He is stating that one follows their conscience because it is the voice of reason, therefore it enlightens us with the best possible choice of action.

Pope Pius XII in the Memoir on Medicine, Science and Religion, on the other hand, has a very different view of conscience. He believes that conscience does not only rest on reasoning but also on deep emotions, he wrote, "At the centre of our being is a point of decision by which the inflow of the divine goodness can be turned back out of disdain for that which is unbecoming or destructive to a being of true worth and back to the Supreme Source of that inflow" [8]. This quote defines the conscience as emotive adherence to morals, Pope Pius XII seems to think that conscience is something that is intrinsically part of a being, rational or not. These two men have very different views of what the conscience is and both are correct due to the differing complexities and functions of the conscience [6].



Lucas states that “It is the intellectual function which determines what is right and wrong”. In simple terms, he is stating that the conscience is a specific function of the mind. It could be defined as a decision-making process. He splits this decision-making process into two parts, an action and a judgment. This is by far the easiest model on the conscience to define. He takes the approach that people know what is right, they often just do not take the right course of action. He does not touch on emotive or unconscious decisions. This makes his approach somewhat narrow.

The eye is the part of us that perceives the outside world and judges it to be good or bad. If events mirror our perception, then our conscience is clear and we experience feelings of contentment or happiness. If, however, events contradict our values, our conscience becomes clouded and guilt is experienced.

In the extreme, if a person continually acts contrary to their beliefs, they can lose all sense of guilt and remorse as their habits and values change. A clear conscience is said to cause feelings of happiness, health, and sound sleep. An alternation in mood and a lack of joy are attributed to the guilt of some wrongdoing. This is explored in the verse, “*A joyful heart is the inevitable result of a heart burning with love. But he whose spirit is heavy or downcast, it is evident his heart has been burnt by some wrongdoing*” [7].

Discussion. Importance of conscience is of immense value in society. As the proverbs outline the benefit and protection of living a life with a clear conscience, the opening lines of the poem state, “*Better a little with the fear of the Lord than great wealth with turmoil*”. This claim that wealth is not as valuable as gold, possibly because the richer a person is, the more likely he will be asked of how he obtained his wealth. Wealth from corrupt means is often practiced by the act of leaving one's conscience at the door in exchange for personal profit. The fear of being caught and the anxiety of repercussions can lead to mental instability and paranoia.

All these factors will greatly take a toll on the richness of life, and with such internal turmoil, life can be argued as not living life at all. A man who is suffering in the mind on the account of his wrongdoings will not be contributing much to society nor himself. In such a case, he would have been better off living with a little. The poem goes further, saying that «*Better a dish of herbs where love is, than a fattened ox with hatred*”.

This description also outlines the living conditions of two different people, one living a life with a clear conscience and the other who has compromised his conscience. A man who has a lot but lives with hatred is akin to the man who ate a fattened ox [9]. The dish of herbs is a description of minimal living, but a life with



love and free from sin has more value than luxurious living with an impure conscience. All these can cause severe alienation of certain individuals in society as people of good conscience tend to avoid anything that would disrupt their mental well-being. Wealth, status, and comfort become meaningless in contrast to a guilt-free life.

Conclusion. In conclusion, conscience is a critical issue in relation to societal morale and growth. It acts as invisible guidance, which moves people to do the right things and avoid the wrong. It is a fundamental determinant in making the choices that govern the way of life for an individual, a group, a community, a state, and the world. It is a determining factor in the success of the world to date; the carrying out of decisions made with pure intentions often has positive results. War crimes and decisions made by Nazis during the World Wars have left indelible scars on the face of the earth. These scars serve as a lesson of what can happen when consciences become corrupt and values are abandoned. Conversely, decisions to help others often have uplifting effects, however huge or small the help provided.

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