



Editorial

The July 2023 issue of *Tattva – Journal of Philosophy* includes five articles on questions that not only play a prominent role in different philosophical disciplines, such as philosophy of religion, philosophy of mind, ethics, and feminist philosophy, but are also widely discussed in the public debate.

As its title already suggests, Sri Ram Pandeya's "The Absurdity of Hinduism: Gandhi's Ideas on Religion and Truth", offers a provocative analysis of Gandhi's interpretation of Hinduism. The author argues that Gandhi's use of the term religion is purely rhetorical in the sense that he interprets it as amorphous and having no identity of its own. However, Gandhi's interpretation can be questioned if one takes into consideration the fact that the rigid caste system is the central characteristic of Hinduism and that it is backed by the practice of Untouchability. The author argues that Gandhi manipulates these fundamental elements of Hinduism by widely borrowing from heterodox traditions. The result is that Gandhi gave a new meaning to Hinduism, which enabled him to criticize colonialism and modernity at large by focusing on the truth of the natural law that governs the whole universe and is prior to particular religious truths, and, furthermore, on the ethical outlook that is needed in religious thought.

Mudasir Ahmed Tantray's article, "Chomsky's Theory of Mind: Concepts and Contents", analyses Chomsky's ideas about the nature of the mind, defined as an innate modular system, consisting of a cluster of modules, in which each module functions automatically and independently of individual efforts. This raises the question about the processes and structure of the mind and its relationship with the brain and other cognitive faculties. The author argues that, according to Chomsky, the mind has its own inner structure (also called innate ideas), so that it is distinct from the brain. This shows that Chomsky is critical of the current predominance of behavioral science and its reduction of mental functions to processes in the brain. In his view, the mind actively performs its functions, thereby processing other cognitive functions, like language, thought,

emotions, memories, and sensory perceptions, although Chomsky remains unclear about whether this processing is conscious or unconscious.

In her article, "Source of Moral Knowledge", Ayesha Gautam analyzes three sources of moral knowledge: experience, which bears many similarities with our experience of the world, intuition, which is an immediate and self-evident certainty, and reason, either in the sense of rational faculties or reasoning processes. The author argues that taken separately, neither of these faculties suffices as the source of moral knowledge. Therefore, an interplay of these faculties is needed: the start of moral knowledge is intuition, but because it is not self-evident and infallible, it has to be complemented by experience and reason to reach the status of knowledge.

Astha Mishra's article, "On Two Metaphorical Expressions in Feminist Philosophy: Context and Analysis", examines the intimate interaction between philosophy and metaphor, in particular the epistemic access that metaphors grant. After examining the role of metaphors in philosophy in general, the author proceeds with an exploration of the use of metaphors in the feminist philosophies of Iris M. Young and Luce Irigaray. Their metaphorical talk is intended to oppose prejudiced patriarchal structures. These two philosophical case studies substantiate the author's fundamental aim in this paper, which is an epistemological one; it consists in showing how metaphors simplify and shape our understanding of all kinds of issues. The conclusion is that metaphors may be plumbed for fertile thought provocation, conceptual development, and learning. Thus, the metaphor mediates between imagery and understanding. Because of its cogency and persuasiveness, the metaphor is a pathway to mental potency, conceptual coherence, and learning enhancement.

The main aim of Shubra Jyoti Das's article on "Religious Pluralism and the Claims of Metaphysical Truth: An Analysis in the Light of Sri Ramakrishna's Thought", is to develop a new paradigm of looking at different religious, c.q. metaphysical truth claims in the light of cross-cultural hermeneutics. According to the author, a proper hermeneutic interpretation of these truth claims, resulting in the insight that all religions are representations of the same Truth, can be helpful to resolve all interreligious conflicts. To substantiate

his thesis the author employs a model, viz. Sri Ramakrishna's discourse on the Ultimate Reality, as it opens up the possibility of such an understanding and thus preserves religious pluralism. An additional advantage of this model is that it challenges undue reliance on the Western model of logic.

Finally, it is my great pleasure and honor to welcome five new members of the Editorial Board of *Tattva – Journal of Philosophy*: dr. Soumyabrata Choudhury (Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, India), dr. Paola-Ludovika Coriando (Innsbruck University, Innsbruck, Austria), dr. Saitya Brata Das (Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, India), dr. Roshnee Ossewaarde-Lowtoo (Tilburg University, Tilburg, the Netherlands), and dr. Marcel Sarot, Tilburg University, Tilburg, the Netherlands). I am confident that these excellent scholars will contribute to further strengthening the academic quality and international reputation of our Journal.

On behalf of the editorial board, I wish you a lot of intellectual pleasure in reading the articles of this issue and hope that they may stimulate your philosophical thinking and discussions about vital questions concerning religious truth, the nature and structure of the human mind, the sources of moral knowledge, and the role of metaphors in human thinking.

Peter Jonkers

Editor-in-chief.