

Pragmatic ‘Weltkenntnis’ and the Categorical Imperative

The Pluralistic Aspects of Kant’s Critical Philosophy

Naozumi MITANI

Kant refers to the idea of ‘Pluralism’ in his *Anthropologie in pragmatischer Hinsicht*. This idea of ‘Pluralism’ has a close connection with that of ‘pragmatische Weltkenntnis’, which means ‘the knowledge of man as a cosmopolitan.’

In this paper, I will argue that these ideas of ‘Pluralism’ and pragmatic ‘Weltkenntnis’ play a leading role in Kant’s critical philosophy, or the philosophy of cosmopolitan, though most of the preceding studies have not paid much attention on them. My argument will go as the following:

- (1) According to the formulation of ‘anthropologia transcendentalis’, Kant’s critical philosophy tells us that a man should not be a mono-eyed Cyclops, or a scholar that has too much confidence in his own knowledge, but a cosmopolitan with a second eye of self-knowledge of human reason, who has the pluralistic perspective that acknowledges the limit of the validity of his own judgment.
- (2) Also, according to Kant’s formulation, ‘Pluralism’ is related to the maxim: ‘to think from the standpoint of everyone else’. And this maxim of pluralism apparently seems to have a close connection with the idea of ‘universalizability of the maxim’, or the ‘categorical imperative’.
- (3) From above, it can be concluded that the principle of ‘pluralism’ or the philosophy of pragmatic ‘Weltkenntnis’ has its deep grounding in Kant’s critical philosophy of cosmopolitan, and further, in the formulation of the ‘categorical imperative’.