

*LECTURE 2.*

**PHILOSOPHICAL ANTHROPOLOGY**

# The main issues of the lecture:

1. The essence of the person. Biological and social in human development.
2. The meaning and purpose of human existence.
3. Individual. Individuality. Personality.

# 1. The essence of the person. Biological and social in human development.

- **Man** is the representative of the species Homo sapiens is genetically linked to other forms of living things, endowed with reason, reflection, speech, ability to create tools.

Man is a living system that represents the unity of three components:

- 1) biological** (anatomical and physiological makings of the type of nervous system, sex and age variation, etc.)
- 2) mental** (feelings, imagination, memory, thinking, will, character, etc.)
- 3) social** (worldview, values, knowledge and skills, etc.).

- He's being a **complete** - combines physical, mental and spiritual; **universal** - capable of any kind of activity; **unique**, open world, unique, free, creative, striving for improvement and self-determination.
- Scientists have no doubts as to the two last characteristics, in respect of "integrity" scientists have always waged a fierce debate and argue about it until now.

- Individual man is part of nature, he is unique in virtue of their biological characteristics (genetic code, weight, height, temperament, etc.). However, **to become a man, he can only in society**: being separated from society, for example, in infancy society, the human being develops as a biological individual, but permanently loses the ability to become fully human (to acquire speech, communication skills, learning work, intellectual activity is also not available to him).

- No doubt, human nature is both biological and social creature. But what is the ratio of these two principles, is one of the determining them is a subject of scientific debate. There are two basic approaches in solving this problem: **biological** and **sociological**. Each of them absolutize its own particular human nature (biological or social).
- Proponents of **BIOLOGICAL CONCEPTS** seeking to explain human based only on the biological beginning of man, and totally ignore the influence of society or their own choice of the individual.

- So, **T. Malthus** (XVIII C.) proposed to consider public life as the arena of struggle of individuals for its existence, where the strongest win and the weak perish (similar to wildlife).
- **Social Darwinism** at the turn of XIX-XX centuries continue this idea, armed with the teachings of Charles Darwin on natural selection and evolution.
- **Sociobiology** in XX century focuses on genetic inheritance. Human behavior in the same way as the animal, is genetically determined and no one can overcome the influence of their heredity, whatever it was - bad or good (the company is also not an assistant).



- **Racist concept**, claim about the superiority of some people over others on grounds of belonging to a "higher" or "lower" races, that is evident in fascist ideology, calling for "racial purity" and "racial hygiene". To a greater extent these ideas were based on **eugenics** - the study of how, by what means and how to achieve "the highest quality of human heredity".
- **Freudism** with his understanding of culture as a sublimation of sexual drives, too, refers to biologization direction.

- **SOCIOLOGICAL CONCEPTS**, on the contrary, absolutize the influence of society on the formation of human. Like the social environment surrounding the person, like he is. In man, as in a mirror, reflected the vices or the virtues. Man become evil due to the imperfections of public relations and wrong education. Create a person's ideal conditions and he will be perfect. Such theories include social utopianism and Marxism.

- In the formation of human personality play a big role and biological inclinations and social education and their own choices (I (Ego)). None of these three factors modern science calls as a defining factor. All of them are important and necessary. Man is a holistic system that is open to the world and possibilities

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## **2. The meaning and purpose of human existence.**

- The question of why man lives on Earth, has interested many thinkers (nationalists) in philosophy. At different times many philosophers have answered this question variously.
- The meaning of life is not given to man from outside. Each person opens the meaning of life differently. To find a common and shared meaning of life for all times and peoples is impossible, because along with the universal, eternal truths, it includes something specific - the hope of each of this age (era).

- **The meaning of life** is a self-conscious choice of the values on which the person is guided in his life. And it can vary depending on the historical conditions of human existence, and its age peculiarities.
- In the history of philosophy we can distinguish the following main concepts of the meaning of life:
  - **1. Hedonism** - to live means to enjoy;
  - **2. Asceticism** - life is renounced for the sake of intimacy with the Lord, which as a spiritual being can be "fit" just being yourself maximum spiritual and free from the sins of the world;

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- **3. The ethics of debt** - life is a sacrifice for high ideals (service to the Homeland, family, honor, love, happiness, other people, etc.)
- **4. Utilitarianism** - to live means to benefit from everything and everyone, to see in another person only the means of satisfying their aspirations and needs;
- **5. Eudemonism** - life understood as the pursuit of happiness as the true destiny of man.
- **6. Pragmatism** - the end justifies any means to achieve it. (пословица «Цель оправдывает средства» - proverb «choice of the end covers choice of the means»)



# 3. Individual. Individuality. Personality

- The concept of "Individual", "Individuality", "Personality", is often used synonymously to describe a person. However, they have important differences. These concepts describe a person from different sides:
- **The individual** - is a characteristic of a person as an individual representative of a biological kind people.  
**The Individuality** - is a characteristic of a person as a carrier of unique, distinctive qualities which are inherent only to him and which distinguish him from other members of the human race.

- **The Personality** includes both inherited and acquired properties. Personality is defined as the carrier of social qualities. A man becomes a Personality in the process of assimilation of the social and cultural experiences of the society (such a process in sociology is called socialization). Only a person with an established worldview, value orientations and moral principles can be called a personality. Personality is the result of the interaction of man and society.

***Thank you for attention!***