

Review of: "Does Philosophy Matter? The Urgent Need for a Philosophical Revolution"

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The issues raised in the article are extremely significant. Professor Maxwell analyses the situation of contemporary philosophy through the prism of the real problems facing the civilized world today. What are these problems? The author lists many of them, including: "population growth, habitat destruction, loss of wild life, mass extinction of species, lethal modern war, the menace of nuclear weapons, gross inequalities of wealth and power around the planet, pollution of earth, sea and air, and what is perhaps the most serious global problem of all, the climate crisis". He makes philosophers and academia, which he believes have neglected their tasks to humanity, largely responsible for the escalation of these problems. He reminds us that philosophy's task is first and foremost to help solve global problems in a truly rational way, in order to make the world a better place to live in. Thus, he calls for a move away from traditional academic philosophy, that is, philosophy of inquiry, called knowledge-inquiry, to wisdom-inquiry. The author is convinced that academic philosophy, by locking itself in its irrational discussions, has become an empty, sterile, useless and therefore bad philosophy. So what should be done, according to Professor Maxwell? There should be a revolution that would absolutely replace bad philosophy with good philosophy - wisdom-inquiry. As it seems- according to the author- revolution is the only way to make the change. Of course, this raises the question of whether the path of revolution is compatible with the wisdom approach, but that's another matter entirely.

I understand Professor Maxwell's concern and greatly appreciate his contribution to pointing out the need for academia to engage in active and intelligent public education about "what our problems are and what should be done about them." However, I must admit that I was surprised by the author's personal and highly emotional remarks toward the academic community. An academic journal should not be a place to express private grievances and resentments. Thus, I believe that the text does not take full advantage of the opportunities arising from the issue raised.