

ABSTRACTS

‘Dare to be Wise’: ‘Exchanging the Word’ — a New Philosophical Practice

Understanding the meaning of ‘wisdom’ is crucial to truly Practical Philosophy — having such an understanding is the best condition of self. To be properly understood, wisdom needs to be described in a way which de-objectivises it as something ‘beyond’ the person. A clear understanding of wisdom is found in the context of the transitional process I call ‘*NU*-Philosophical Counselling’ — a process of mutual philosophizing derived from Philosophical Counselling but which broadens its scope and concentrates on ‘*Non-Utilitarian*’ aims. Wisdom, though ‘*Non-Utilitarian*’ in important respects, is a quality evidenced exclusively in our present experience of life and its revelation helps to show us the falsity of truth beyond our experience. The general trend of personal progress within the process of *NU*-Philosophical Counselling may, at different times, be in the form of clarity, wisdom or ‘un-wisdom’. The process of *NU*-Philosophical Counselling — in its negative statement against the utilitarian stance, and in its positive nature directing us towards something of a better life — is clearly evidenced in a new form of Practical Philosophy I call ‘Exchanging the Word’.

In this paper I outline the process of Exchanging the Word, together with its relation to wisdom and how it departs from conventional philosophical interactions such as

Philosophical Counselling. This paper is an abbreviated version of an article to appear in the July issue of *Practical Philosophy*.

Exchanging the Word — Workshop

We can experience high levels of closeness with others by ‘opening up to the possibility’ of them — by making ourselves available to them so that they experience us as beyond and also within them. We can bring this about by clear and unbroken focus on their being in the process of ‘Exchanging the Word’.

Exchanging the Word opens up clarity beyond the individual and may bring about some degree of wisdom in the individual or another. This process opens up a new world the subjectivity of which is somehow shared with another. My experience of Exchanging the Word is an experience of a world where confusion can be eradicated, inner turmoil quietened, terror extinguished, and despair lifted.

The workshop will allow participants to be better informed and involved in some of the features of Exchanging the Word. It will be partially based on my own research into the experience of Exchanging the Word and, because this is still a ‘live’ issue, participants will be making a real contribution to its development.