

PHILOSOPHY AND NEUROSCIENCES

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Philosophers, even from the era of pre Socratic philosophers, have continuously been concerned with the mind and the interior aspect of the human being, attempting to discover and analyze profoundly the selfand, the real self . At the same time some of the crucial questions in philosophy concerned the consciousness, the morality, the thinking, the emotion and the representation of the interior life of the person in the society. The reasonable thinking (.Λόγος or Word) is one of the main issues of Philosophy even from the era of Heracletus from Ephesos, the first existential philosopher of the sixth century BC. He stated: *"Yet all things follow from the word. For wisdom, listen not to me but the Word and know that all is one"*.

The aim of life was another important issue in Greek Philosophy. Epicuros (341-270 B.C) stated that the aim of life is the pleasure of the mind and the absence of psychological pain, though Plotinos (205-270 B.C) insisted that the meaning of the life is a continuous effort for spiritual elevation. The human being must always culture the virtues and the worths. Only the spiritual or celestial life may offer the serenity or the apathy (απάθειαν) of the soul.

The importance of self-knowledge was repeatedly emphasized by Socrates, who always procreated "Know yourself". That issue was many centuries later emphatically repeated by Kierkegaard, who wrote "He who does not know himself cannot recognize himself, either; one is continually able to recognize oneself only to the extent that one knows himself The self- knowledge is essential for an individual to be a person or a subject" (Kierkegaard JPIV 3902). Thinking also is equivalent to living Kierkegaard admitted "My thoughts are my life, are always present to me (S.Kierkegaard, from graft 13;18-51,7).

The last eighty years since Santiago Ramon y Cajal published his histological observations on the brain, we have seen a dramatic increase in our understanding of our mental capacities and brain function. Philosophers therefore begun to ask how and to what extent the features of the conscious mind, of the self, can be described in solely neurobiological terms. Philosophy of neurosciences is therefore the philosophy of mind, which claims that the higher mental faculties, such as reasoning and thought properties of the brain, organized by neuronal networks and their synapses. This neurological approach contrasts strongly with idealism, and the appeal to the existence of a Platonic soul that thinks, feels and desires.