## Richard Rorty si locul filosofiei in cultură, in contextul depăsirii paradigmei moderniste

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Rorty s-a impus drept unul dintre cei mai complecși filosofi contemporani care, îmbinând cele două tradiții culturale foarte pronunțate ale prezentului — cea europeană (majoritar postmodernistă), și cea americană (pragmatistă) — a creat o filozofie extrem de apreciată și actuală, neopragmatismul.

Ultima sa carte – Philosophy as Cultural Politics, publicată în 2007, în ciclul Philosophical Papers la Cambridge University Press – atinge, printre altele, și locul pe care-l ocupă filosofia în cultura contemporană. Luând în considerație erudiția autorului, punctul de vedere este unul demn de toată considerația.

In opinia lui Rorty, filosofia iese la suprafata în contextul schimbărilor din plan cultural; locul ei in cultura e evident în momente d ecriză "when things seem to be falling apart, when long held and widely cherished beliefs are threatened" (PCP, 73), relevându-i, astfel, efectul identitar.

In astfel de momente, intelectualii imagineaza viitorul in termenii unei reinterpretari a trecutului; totul se leaga, totul progreseaza – similar manierei în care adorația lui D-zeu a fost înlocuită de dragostea față de adevăr ("Spinoza and Kant taught Europe how to replace love of God with love of truth, and how to replace obedience to the divine with moral purity") (PCP, 73).

În secolul XX, aceasta conduce la conflictul stiinta - teologie (Andrew White), când

## Richard Rorty and Philosophy's Place in Culture, in the context of the overcoming of Modern Paradigm

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Richard Rorty distinguished himself as one of the most interesting and complex contemporary philosophers, combining in a very appealing manner nowadays' two most pronounced cultural traditions — European (mainly postmodernist) and American (pragmatist); thus resulted a very actual and extremely appreciated philosophy — neopragmatism.

Rorty's latter book, published in '07, under the *Philosophical Papers* collection, at *Cambridge University Press*, approaches a wide variety of philosophical papers, amongst which the place philosophy inside the contemporary culture. Considering the wide knowledge of the author, his standpoint is one necessarily valuable.

In Richard Rorty's view, philosophy surfaces in the context of changes taking place at a cultural level; its place in culture becomes obvious in times of crisis "when things seem to be falling apart, when long held and widely cherished beliefs are threatened" (PCP, 73), thus revealing its identitary role.

In such moments, intellectuals imagine future in terms of a reinterpretation of the past; everything connects, everything is in progress – similar o the manner in which the adoration of God was replaced with the love for truth ("Spinoza and Kant taught Europe how to replace love of God with love of truth, and

devine evidentă dezvoltarea unei atitudini how to replace obedience to the divine with materialiste. randul intelectualilor europeni, pe fondul unei culturi profund secularizate.

La nivel socio-politic, ei impartasesc aceeasi utopie: un commonwealth global, in care drepturile omului sunt respectate, la fel ca si egalitatea de sanse. Idealul pragmatic al fericirii trebuie sa fie scopul oricarui rationament politic azi.

Rorty sustine că acest tip de abordare a marginalizat filosofia ("This consensus among intellectuals has moved philosophy to the margins of the culture") (PCP, 74).

Acelasi efect e posibil sa-l fi avut si optiunea pragmatică în legătură cu renunțarea la fundamentele de clasic din tip plan epistemologic. si metafizic - ceea reprezintă profunda dimensione antifundaționalistă a culturii.

Absolutistii, cum i-ar numi Rorty, ar putea interpreta această mutație culturală esențială drept un demers sofistic și relativizant. În context. Rortv identifică controverse incă vii in cultura contemporana:

- 1. "Cearta" filosofilor cu poezia reactivata de romantism - o ceartă a rațiunii cu imaginatia (filosoful american insistă asupra importanței ultimei).
- 2. "Cearta" filosofilor cu sofistii "between those who think there is an important virtue called the love of truth and those who don't" (PCP, 74)

Poeții si sofiștii in comun îndoiala - neagă caracterul paradigmatic acceptat al stiintelor naturale/moderne, arătând suspiciune în cu "grandoarea universalistă" legătură specifică matematicii și fizicii.

Pentru filosofii stiintelor moderne, sofistii si poeții sunt iraționali ("deniers of tuth"), și de aceea, dușmani ai științei. Multi dintre acești filosofi gândesc știința modernă similar modului în care intelectualii pre-Galileeni

moral purity") (PCP, 73).

In the 20-th century this led to the science-theology conflict (Andrew White), when a materialist attitude is more than obvious, amongst European intellectuals, in the context of a profoundly secularized culture. On the other hand, at a socio-political level, they share the same utopia: a global commonwealth, where human rights are respected, same way as equality of chances. The pragmatic ideal of happinness must be, therefore, the purpose of any political reasoning.

The American philosopher admits that such a view was a cause for the marginalizing of philosophy - ("This consensus among intellectuals has moved philosophy to the margins of the culture") (PCP, 74).

pragmatic'renouncing epistemological – metaphysical, foundations may have had a similar effect, as well which stands for the profound dimension of anti-foundationalist culture.

Absolutists, as Rorty would call them, could interpret this essential, cultural mutation as a sophistic - relativizing approach; from this point of view. identifies he two controversises that are still alive in contemporary culture:

- 1. Philosophers' quarrell with poetry reactivated by Romanticism - a quarrell of reason with imagination (Rorty insists on the importance of the latter)
- 2. Philosophers' quarrell with sophists -"between those who think there is an important virtue called the love of truth and those who don't" (PCP, 74)

Poets and sophists have in common the doubt - they deny the paradigmatically accepted dimension ofnatural/modern sciences, expressing suspicion about ..the universalistic grandour", which is specific to

gândeau religia.

In ce constă schimbarea?

În substituirea responsabilității față de un standard non-uman cu responsabilitatea față de semen – celebra negare a "God's eye standpoint" (Hillary Putnam)

Privirea trufașă în sus este înlocuită cu o alta, modestă, spre lumea imediată, supusă acelei pieirii nemulțumitoare din punctul de vedere al lui Platon. Este vorba d eîntoarcerea spre comunitate și renunțarea la superioritatea unei abordări abstract — metafizice ("It is to lower our sights from the unconditional above us to the community around us") (PCP, 77).

Această atitudine este coerentă cu ceea ce Kuhn afirma – oamenii de știință trebuie sa accepte ca nu revelă "adevărata natură a lucrurilor", ci rezolvă cel mult niste puzzle-uri

Rezultatul: dispare paradigma grandorii din cultură.

Dewey, care a avut o puternică influență asupra lui Rorty, este invocat, în ceea ce privește acel model Deweyan al despiritualizării filosofiei: nu grandoare, ci rezolvarea problemelor.Impune, astfel, un loc pragmatic al filosofiei in cultură – "Dewey had no use either for theodicy or for the ideal of absolute knowledge. He was interested only in helping people solve problems, and had no wish for either grandeur or profundity" (79)

Concluzia lui Rorty - astfel, filosofii devin burghezi, incetând sa se ridice la nivelul spiritual la care se confrunta platonismul si nietzschejanismul.

Imaginația impune poezia în locul religiei, în contextul unei culturi pragmatice, definite de R. Rorty drept utilitarinism romantic - "The substitution of poetry for religion as a source of ideals, a movement that began with the Romantics, seems to me usefully described as a return to polytheism"(29)

Se renunta astfel la dogma monoteista, fortata

maths and physics.

To the philosophers of modern sciences, sophists and poets are irrational ("deniers of tuth"), and thus ennemies of teh science. Many such philosophers think of modern science in the same way as pro-Gallileans thought of religion.

What does this change mean? Substituting responsibility towards a non-human standard with responsibility towards the fellow – the famous denying of "God's eye standpoint" (Hillary Putnam)

The arrogant look towards the *upper* world is replaced by the modest one, oriented towards immediate world, that answers to the Platonic idea of unsatisfying *perishing*. This means, actually, returning to community, while giving up on the superiority of an abstract-metaphysical approach ("It is to lower our sights from the unconditional above us to the community around us") (PCP, 77).

All this appears coherent with what Kuhn thought – scientists should begin to accept that they are not revealing the "true nature of things", when instead they merely solve some puzzles. The natural conclusion is that the paradigm of grandour in culture dissappears.

Dewey, who powerfully influenced Rorty, is mentioned, when the Deweyean model of de-spiritualizing philosophy is under discussion — thus, solving problems, rather than the grandour. This makes obvious the pragmatic place of philosophy in culture - "Dewey had no use either for theodicy or for the ideal of absolute knowledge. He was interested only in helping people solve problems, and had no wish for either grandeur or profundity" (79)

Rorty's conclusion — philosophers become bourgeois and stop aiming for a spiritual level where Platonism confronts Nietzscheianism. Imagination replaces religion with poetry—quite a spectacular mutation—in the context of a pragmatic culture, defined by Rorty as romantic utilitarianism—"The substitution of

de autoritatea non-umana – o oprirea a dominatiei elenismului asupra ebraismului la nivel moral.

În ceea ce privește romantismul, Isaiah Berlin îl opune ("The Roots of Romanticism") nu clasicismului, ci universalismului; astfel, transforma opoziția intr-una filosofică, mai degrabă decat într-un contrast literar.

Romantismul, spune Berlin, a creat o revolutie la nivelul constiintei: a fracturat universalismul, care era considerat "the backbone of the main Western tradition".

Urmarea firească este că imaginatia înlocuiește rațiunea. Dispare obsesia pt criteriile obiective care susțin descoperirea dictatorialului adevăr – corespondență.

Efectul este unul ce ține de lowering the sights:

"...inquiry need have no higher goal than solving the problems when they arise" (83) Platonismul prin opoziție, susținea că, prin conceptualizare si argument, putem ajunge, în cunoastere, la "full stop"; astfel viata făcea sens la nivel holistic.

Este de văzut dacă, însă, nu avem de –a face doar cu epistemologie a slăbiciunii.

Romantismul "became convinced that conceptualization and argumentation would always leave three dots at the end"; cine ne salveaza de la finitudine – poetul, sau geniul imaginativ?

Rorty e de acord cu Schiller – "idealurile nu trebuie descoperite, ci inventate"; adevarul este "creat" (ideea cu origini wittgensteiniene)

Este timpul poeților, crede filosoful american, deoarece "... the poet does not fit past events together in order to provide lessons for the future, but rather shocks us into turning our backs on the past and incites the hope of that our future will be wonderfully different" (84) Ceea ce se caută este, nu grandoare supraumana, ci indrăzneala prometeică, nu Cartezianism, ci ANTI-FUNDATIONALISM. Este timpul anulării

poetry for religion as a source of ideals, a movement that began with the Romantics, seems to me usefully described as a return to polytheism"(29)

Thus, monotheistic dogma is given up, forced by non-human authority – equivalent with an end of the Hellenism's domination over Hebraism at a moral level.

In what Romanticism is concerned, Isaiah Berlin ("The Roots of Romanticism") opposes it, not to Classicism, but rather to universalim; thus, he turns this opposition philosophical, instead of what had previously been a literary contrast.

Romanticism, says Berlin, created a revolution at the level of consciousness: it fractured universalism, which was previously considered "the backbone of the main Western tradition".

The natural outcome is that imagination replaces reason. The obsession for objective criteria, supporting the discovery of dictatorial truth (truth-correspondence) dissappears.

The effect is connected to an act of *lowering* the sights:

"...inquiry need have no higher goal than solving the problems when they arise" (83) Platonism, by opposition, states that, by conceptualisation and argument, we can get to a "full stop" in knowledge; this way, life made sense at a holistic level.

Remains to be discussed whether there's nothing more to it than an epistemology of the weakness.

Romanticism "became convinced that conceptualization and argumentation would always leave three dots at the end"; who can save us from finitude – the poet, or the imaginative genius?

Rorty agrees with Schiller – "ideals should nont be discovered, but rather invented"; truth is *created* ( idea with Wittgensteinian resonnance).

dualismelor fracturante din epistemologie și metafizică.

Pe fondul unei culturi secularizate, rolul filosofilor este irelevant.

În condițiile în care "infinit is losing its charm" si, dat fiind că nu vrem sa cădem in absurd/abstract/neconditionat, devenim "commonsensical finitists".

Abordarea este una orizontala, si nu verticală— "figuring out how we might arrange for a slightly better future, rather than looking up to an outermost framework or down into ineffable depths" (88)

Incitarea la finitudine este în ton cu epoca: "...people who believe that when we die we rot, that each generation will solve old problems only by creating new ones, that our descendants will look back on much that we have done with incredulous contempt, and that progress toward greater justice and freedom is neither inevitable nor impossible. We are becoming content to see ourselves as a species of animal that makes itself up as it goes along". (88)

De la Renaștere încoace, spune Rorty, intelectualii Vestului au trecut prin trei tipuri de mântuire (redemption):

- 1. Mai intai mântuirea de D-zeu;
- 2. Apoi, mântuirea de filosofie mântuirea de obsesia pt incognoscibilitatea lucrului în sine;
- 3. Acum de literatură...Se renunță la obsesia pentru adevar și, în schimb, se produce o focusare pe maximul posibilității de varietate în ceea ce privește ființa umană.

Concluzionând, se poate spune că trăim într-o cultură dominată de literatură; într-o astfel de cultura, literatura si filosofie devin genuri literare.

Consecinta este una desenată pragmatist: nu adevar (filosofie) si nici D-zeu (religie), ci o

It is a time of the poets, believes Rorty, as "... the poet does not fit past events together in order to provide lessons for the future, but rather shocks us into turning our backs on the past and incites the hope of that our future will be wonderfully different" (84) What one looks for, now, is not super-human grandour, but rather prometheic daring, not Cartesianism. but instead ANTI-FOUNDATIONALISM. It is a good time for dualism annulling the fracturing epistemology and metaphysics.

In the context of such a secular culture, the role of philosophers is irrelevant. When infinite "is losing its charm", as we no longer seek to fall back into absurd/abstract/unconditional, we become "commonsensical finitists".

The approach is horizontal, rather than vertical - "figuring out how we might arrange for a slightly better future, rather than looking up to an outermost framework or down into ineffable depths" (88)

It is natural, at this moment, to aim for finitude:

"...people who believe that when we die we rot, that each generation will solve old problems only by creating new ones, that our descendants will look back on much that we have done with incredulous contempt, and that progress toward greater justice and freedom is neither inevitable nor impossible. We are becoming content to see ourselves as a species of animal that makes itself up as it goes along". (88)

Since Rennaissance on, says Rorty, Western intellectuals went across three types of redemptions:

- 1. Redemption from God;
- 2. Redemption from philosophy a redemption from the obsession for the incognoscibility of the thing- in- itself;
- 3. From literature ... The obsession for truth

abordare a cartilor "as human attempts to meet human needs" (91). Standardul supra – uman este înlocuit cu cel uman, iar cuvântul – cheie este acela de *nevoi* umane...

Rorty consideră că tranziția de la cultura filosofică la cea literară a început imediat după Kant; în momentul tranziției – "ce este adevărul?" e inlocuită cu "ce este nou?" (PCP, 92)

Rezultă tot soiul de repoziționări, în contextul acestor schimbări profunde.

Intr-o cultură ce caută noutatea, si nu scăparea din temporal, religia si filosofia se periferializează.

Scopul căutărilor este, nu D-zeu, nu intrinsecalitatea, ci ființa umană, progres, speranță, fericire!

Locul ocupat de filozofie este unul marginal în cultura contemporană, pragmatică și aceasta se explică printr-o profundă schimbare de paradigmă la nivel cultural.

Nu e exagerat a spune că acest lucru se întâmplă pe fondul unei abordări antiplatoniste ce a început cu Nietzsche și a fost preluată de postmodernism și neopragmatism.

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Take care of Freedom and Truth will take care of itself, interviews with Richard Rorty,

is replaced by the focus on the maxim of possibility of variety, in what human being is concerned.

In conclusion, we could say that we live in a cultural paradigm, dominated by literature, where both literature and philosophy are mere literary genres.

The consequence is pragmatically designed: neither truth (philosophy), nor God (religion), but instead an approach of the books "as human attempts to meet human needs" (PCP, 91). Also, the super-human standard is replaced by a human one, while the key-word is human needs.

...

Rorty considers that the transition from philosophical culture to literary began immediately after Kant; at that specific time, "what is time?" was replaced with "what's new?" (PCP, 92). All sort of repositioning result, in the name of such a profound change.

In such a culture, looking for novelty, rather than escaping teh temporal, religion and philosophy become peripherial. The purpose of searches is no longer God, but human being, progress and hope, happiness!

The place philosophy ocupies in our pragmatic culture is therefore marginal; this is justified by the profound change of paradism at the cultural level. It's not an exaggeration to say that all these happened on an anti-platonist background, that took off from Nietzsche and was later taken over by postmodernism and neopragmatism.

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