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Philosophy, Method, and Fate: To the 200th Jubilee of Hegel's *Encyclopedia of the Philosophical Sciences*

Hegel's great merit in the history of philosophy and the history of culture is in the creation of a dialectical method. In the preface to the first edition of "The Encyclopedia of the Philosophical Sciences", Hegel wrote that "a deep inner need for a rational understanding which is the only thing that informs a man of his dignity" preserves "an open-minded, unsubstantiated philosophical interest and a serious love for higher knowledge".¹ This is the message of all subsequent philosophy. It retains its great meaning today.

The modern philosophy actively supports views and ideas that ground their constructs and conclusions on the non-dialectical way of thinking. This leads philosophy as a science to a crisis state within itself and to a negative attitude towards it on the part of society. This situation essentially coincides with what Hegel wrote about philosophy and science of his time.²

Thus, he noted the difference between the dialectical method "from just the external order that other sciences use, and also from the manner that has become common in the philosophical discourse; the latter proceeds from a scheme that is adopted in advance; with the help of this scheme, the material under consideration is placed in parallel series in accordance with the same external manner and even more arbitrarily than in the first method, and, by an extremely strange misunderstanding, this scheme tends to replace the necessary development of the concept with random and arbitrary connections".³

The science today, just like in Hegel's time, responds more readily to the demands of *the external order*, to the use of an adopted in advance scheme.⁴

The dialectical method in science is in extremely low demand, and at the same time, the positivist understanding of methodology as an array of rational matrices, schemes suitable for use is widespread.

¹ G. W. F. Hegel, *Encyclopedia of the Philosophical Sciences*, Moscow 1974, 55.

² Ibid.

³ Ibid.

⁴ Ibid.