

# Philosophy and the Role of Philosophers in the Society

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## **Abstract**

Philosophy like a candle light in darkness in the winter is fraught with a strong wind which has led humanity in search for natural wisdom, knowledge and truth. The journey as it was recorded in the West started with Thales of Mellitus (624-546 B.C) but it was from the time of Plato and Aristotle that philosophy flowered with generous fruits. Substantial progress however, is not such easy based on the fact that the history of this philosophical search has many pitfalls. Applying analytic philosophy which is modern from the 18<sup>th</sup> century, a survey was made which assisted the appraisal of Philosophy and the Role of Philosophers and substantive critical analysis that is centred on the history of philosophy. The encouraging aspect is that, there is continuous progress in human efforts in coming to terms with truth through Reason and Divine Revelation. However, objective methodological evaluation shows that Modern philosophy in spite of its achievements has fallen into disrepute. The fundamentalists had claimed that, contemporary philosophy is concerned with problems which have ceased to be of interest to workers in other fields of human knowledge; to them such problems have become redundant and obsolete (Harrison-Barbet, 1990, p. 4). 'Professionalization' is another factor that had travestied philosophy from its traditional nature and form and placed it side by side with other professional sciences like medicine, engineering, which one performs just for pay and for one's livelihood. In a bid to search for truth, this research adopts a rational method of thinking and questioning into errors in Modern philosophy which need to be isolated and excised in order that philosophy may retain its essence.

## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

Philosophy as a subject can be compared to the sun and its light. The sun has a base, the seat of that great light, which is unmistakable from any angle, at any point and from any part of the earth. At the same time, there is the light which beams from the body of the sun and seems throws itself out so as to view

everywhere possible. Philosophy began as the light which illumines in the darkness. As humans discover themselves in the world, they also find out that life in the world involves challenges of various kinds; for instance, how to secure food to eat, how to protect self from cold and heat, how to protect self from ravenous animals etc. The reality of the nature of our world has made some people describe it as a situation of the survival of the fittest. In the jungle, that could be true but in the civilized world it is far from truth. The point however is 'how could man with his size secure for himself a proper place of dignity among all other things in the world?' In order to do this the issue of physical strength is deemphasized and knowledge and wisdom is given prominence. It gradually becomes clear that man can survive and conquer through knowledge and wisdom in obedience to his Creator. Nature has already equipped the human person with necessary instruments for this purpose, for instance, senses to perceive, intellect to think, intuition to discover higher knowledge above the senses etc. With these available, man began his work which we call philosophy. Every rational being in one time or the other philosophizes but there are other people who take it upon themselves to philosophize at a higher level, use philosophy to clarify practical reason and develop self to love of truth for the good of humanity and the world.

## **2.0 STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM**

Philosophy gave birth to all fields of human knowledge as we have them today. Human civilization came prominently but not in isolation to other places in the world from Cretan-Grecian civilization. Among the Ionian philosophers to the Socratic period, philosophy encompasses every field of human knowledge. It was Plato and Aristotle that gave us the impetus to study different fields in human knowledge, hence there emerge an encouragement and developmental process in the activities of seeking, learning and acquiring knowledge. When the history of philosophy is closely followed, it would be noticed that from Pre-Socratic era to Ancient philosophy, there is a mathematical progression in fields of human knowledge but from the Medieval period onward especially in the Modern period, there has been a geometrical progression in philosophical fields of thought. As it is in all other areas like increase in number of cities in the world, development in technology and increase in world market, in spite of their good prospects they also suffer some set-backs. Philosophy as a science on the other hand shared in this later development and defects. As rightly pointed out by Pope John Paul II; many philosophical opinions concerning God, the human being, human freedom and ethical behaviour and so forth have threatened right understanding. Modern philosophy has taken wrong turns and fallen into error and there is no historical form of philosophy that can legitimately claim to embrace the totality of truth, or be able to explain the human being completely, the world and the human being's relationship with God. Today, then, with the proliferation of systems, methods, concepts and

philosophical theses which are often complex, therefore the need for a critical discernment is urgently required (Pope John Paul II, 1999, pp.77-79, no.50-52). Secondly, statistics has shown that greater number of people studying philosophy today are doing that for other reasons apart from philosophy itself. Unlike before when people venture into philosophy because they love wisdom and are seeking for truth. Heraclitus of Ephesus (c.535-475 B. C.) spent his whole life in search of metaphysical and moral principles that he had no time for socialization and seeking popularity. Democritus (c.460-370 B.C.) spent his inheritance on extensive travels to distant countries to satisfy his thirst for knowledge. Thomas Aquinas (c. 1225-1274) opines that among all human pursuits, the pursuit of wisdom is more perfect, more noble, more useful, and more full of joy (Thomas Aquinas, [http://dhspriority.org/ Thomas/ContraGentiles.htm](http://dhspriority.org/Thomas/ContraGentiles.htm) retrieved 15-6-2017). Today, many who studied philosophy have the purpose to further their educational careers, business acumen, writing and so forth. Philosophers now use philosophy to achieve different aims and objectives which distract attention from the main purpose. The task in hand is how will philosophy be restored to its former glory?

### 3.0 OBJECTIVES

It is important to inquire what informs some thoughts and objectives set for true philosophy. There is no true philosophy that is not a development from what has been over the centuries. While we cannot be slaves to history, it is important to follow the road of history so as to understand how we arrived where we are today. There is the tendency and possibility in modern technology where anyone can copy and paste opinions without cross-checking the facts concerning the claims. Many who read do not care or may not have the time or even intellectual ability to detect truth from false reasoning. Another aspect is the volume of philosophical theories in circulation which makes it very difficult to re-examine all and isolate true philosophies from erroneous ones. The present task is motivated by the desire to:

- Raise the awareness of errors in some philosophical theories which are misleading.
- Trace our way back from history to evaluate the contribution of the past to the present.
- Point out that truth does not change and every truth contributes and strengthens what has been known to be truth in the past.
- It is not everything that has been written and published that is truthful, therefore there is the need to cross-check and ascertain facts of claims.
- Remind philosophers of their objective as lovers of wisdom who are in search of truth.

#### 4.0 METHODOLOGY

We will adopt a rational method of thinking and questioning, redefine the world, correct ideas and opinions bearing in mind that philosophy is not a body of truths but shows the way and gives freedom to people to think with the ultimate purpose of seeking metaphysical truth.

#### 5.0 THE AFRICAN CONTEXT

African philosophy is the philosophy produced by Africans, the philosophy that presents African worldviews, ideas and themes or the philosophy that uses distinct African philosophical methods. Modern African thought has been occupied with ethnophilosophy, defining the very meaning of African philosophy and its unique characteristics and what it means to be African ([https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Philosophy\\_of\\_Africanity](https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Philosophy_of_Africanity), retrieved 20-09-2017). It is contended that there is no distinctively African philosophy, rather, what we should discuss should be shared philosophy of common humanity. Whatever exists must have a history and its development could be traced back to possible retrievable period. We have had African philosophers like Origen and Augustine of Hippo whose philosophies were influenced by Greek philosophy and Christian religion. They wrote extensively on different issues like the existence of God, the world, the soul, evil in the world, *logos* and so forth. Though they were also theologians, as such their thoughts were not totally dedicated to philosophy.

About 1050 A.D, North Africa and South of the Sahara were centres of philosophical activities, although due to their inability to write down the wisdom and insights they had, it is hard to present their works today. The third stage could be identified with Anthony William Amo from Ghana who lectured philosophy in German Universities from 1703 to 1757. It is rightly noted that during the 17<sup>th</sup> century, Ethiopian philosophy developed a robust literary tradition as exemplified by Zera Yacob. Other African philosophical ideas include Ujamaa, the Bantu idea of 'Force', Negritude, Pan-Africanism and Ubuntu. Contemporary African thought has also seen the development of Professional philosophy and African philosophy, the philosophical literature of the African diaspora also includes currents such as black existentialism by African-Americans. Modern African thinkers have been influenced by Marxism, African-American literature, Critical theory, Critical race theory, Post colonialism and Feminism ([https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Philosophy\\_of\\_Africanity](https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Philosophy_of_Africanity), retrieved 20-09-2017). John S. Mbiti wrote a lot on African philosophy and held that philosophy of one kind or another is behind the thinking and acting of every people (Omoregbe, 1990). Philosophy generally reflects the historical life of people at a particular time and place. In 1960-1980s there were social and political instabilities in Africa and we have philosophers like Kwame Nkrumah, Nnamdi Azikiwe, Obafemi Awolowo and so forth. Other currents in

recent African philosophy include the Kawaiida project, created by Maulana Karenga, which is an ongoing search for African models of excellence in the seven core areas of culture, history, spirituality and ethics, social organization, political organization, economic organization, creative production (art, music, literature, dance, etc) and ethics (Mastin, <http://www.philosophybasics.com/general-African.html> retrieved 19-07-2017). Today, African countries are threatened more with terrorism, economic stagnation, and corruption, lack of creative productivity and what have you. Some Africans had already taken up challenges in different fields like education, right to life and property, literature, painting, sculpture, music, drama, dance, songs etc., but we still need more philosophers to storm our brains with cohesion of thoughts and with new creative ideas; for instance, on the divine purpose of human existence and its meaning, and in unearthing methods that would guide society in wisdom that seeks the truth.

## 6.0 PHILOSOPHY

Philosophy is from two Greek words '*philo*' and '*sophia*', meaning 'love of wisdom'. It is the study of general and fundamental problems concerning matters such as God, existence, knowledge, values, reason, mind, and language. (Philosophy-Wikipedia, <https://en.m.wikipedia.org> retrieved 19-07-2017). Although philosophy is so quickly defined, it is not easy to discuss the true nature of philosophical thoughts because of different schools of thought. To buttress this point, let us examine randomly some major schools of philosophical thought. Platonic Academy for instance, was concerned with eternal and unchanging ideals which could assist man to commit himself to goodness and truth. They postulate that reason shows us that there is a set of fixed and unchanging ideas, which not only explain our highest ideals, but also explain the ordinary way we understand concepts and language. The Sceptics were doubtful of philosophy and were overwhelmed with contradictions that philosophy makes which makes confident judgment impossible. They maintain that every argument seems to be a plausible counter-argument, so in order to have peace of mind is to remain passive.

Thomism examines the logical implications of Christ's teachings, and asked if they are compatible with the teachings of the pagan philosophers? Although Aristotle and Plato lacked Christian revelation, their ideas on metaphysics, politics, virtue and logic fit well in explaining Christian wisdom and greatly extended as an intellectual theory. Christian doctrines like free will and the existence of evil were commonly buttressed through pagan philosophy. Logical Analysts propose that if problems are broken down into steps, and attention paid to precise logic and evidence just as science does, then, surely we can reach the truth. But a cautious approach makes big metaphysical claims look very doubtful, we can make some progress, especially in understanding the complex

role which language and the nature of the mind play in our own thinking. Empiricists hold that sense experience is our only source of knowledge, and there is a limit to our understanding and knowledge. We can see that science is the best route to truth, and philosophy shows us the limitations of claims about perception, knowledge, truth, laws, causation, the future, morality and politics, when they are built up purely from basic sense experience (The major schools of philosophical thought, retrieved 27-08-2017, ). Despite of divergence in themes, methods and areas that are accepted as part of philosophy, the common aspect is to strive to attend truth through reason. The search for truth is the sole purpose of philosophy, this is the most ancient occupation of the human mind and it has the prospects of increasing this activity till the end of time.

## 7.0 PHILOSOPHER

Who is a philosopher? How can we know philosophers? Before we begin answering these questions, let us first of all state what a philosopher is not. As it has been observed; many men pursue philosophy for the sake of wealth and power, with the aim of procuring these either from private individuals, or from kings, who deem philosophy fit to be a great and precious possession. Well, it is not in order to gain wealth or power that we Cynics pursue philosophy! We pursue philosophy so that we may enjoy happiness through a life of virtue (Diogenes of Sinope c. 412-323 B.C.).

Who is a Philosopher? A philosopher is a person who seeks wisdom and enlightenment, for instance, a scholar, thinker or a student of philosophy. He is a person whose philosophical perspective makes meeting trouble with equanimity easier. He can also be seen as an expounder of a theory in a particular area of experience. One who philosophizes is one who studies ideas about knowledge, truth and the nature and meaning of life (Merriam-Webster Unabridged Dictionary). Philosophers acquire needs and interests unknown to uneducated men/women, above all, philosophers do not recant in the public forum the principles they uphold in private and they acquire the habit of loving truth for itself. A good selection of such men/women constitutes the happiness of a nation (Cesare Beccaria, *On Crimes and Punishments*, Chp. XI.II). In an attempt to understand who a 'philosopher' is today, we need to divide philosophical periods into three parts namely: Thales of Miletus to Socratic Classical c. 6<sup>th</sup> Century B.C to 3<sup>rd</sup> Century A.D., Medieval Period C. 4<sup>th</sup> Century to 15<sup>th</sup> Century and Age of Reason to Modern Philosophy 15<sup>th</sup> Century to Date. This will enable us re-examine along different periods how philosophers have seen themselves and the kind of relationship they had / have with their communities and societies at large. The dominant strands of various periods will be sketchily enunciated.

**a. *Thales of Miletus to Socratic Classical c.6<sup>th</sup> Century B.C. to 3<sup>rd</sup> Century A.D.***

*Key Problem*

They were concerned with the fundamental nature of reality, the atoms, change and permanence. They were interested in questioning, critical discussions, rational arguments, mathematics, physics, astronomy, medicine etc. They also study problems of existence, knowledge, values, language and examine the best way humans live as individuals and in the society. Through questioning, discussions and arguments they develop a rational knowledge that leads to a deeper understanding of nature. It was in the time of Plato and Aristotle that philosophy developed comprehensively with Metaphysics, Logic, Ethics, Aesthetics, politics as its branches of study.

*Major Schools of thought*

Prominent at this time were Ancient Greek schools of philosophy, the Eastern philosophy of Persia, China, India, Africa and Japan. Each in its own method was sought wisdom concerning existence, the world and solutions to general human problems. In the early centuries of the Christian era, Greek philosophy met with Christian philosophy and theology. Philosophy became the handmaid of theology and that ushered the Medieval Period.

*What the Philosophers Valued in this Period*

Philosophers esteemed wisdom and knowledge above other natural things. They often give their time and wealth travelling around in search of knowledge. They were custodians of knowledge, virtue and are cultured. Their personal and social lives exhibit high moral and spiritual standards. Some lived distinguished, modest and simple lives. Others decline public honors and rejected political offices. They preached the doctrines of virtuous self-control, austerity of life with few possessions. Apart from the Sophists who lived flamboyant lifestyles with the desire to amass wealth, philosophers have a consistent disciplined lifestyle. The opposite of Sophism was Cynicism; Cynics never struggled for wealth, power and fame. They advocated a life free from possessions and property. Christian philosophers used natural wisdom from Greek Philosophy to expound Divine revelation.

**b. *Medieval Period C. 4<sup>th</sup> Century to 15<sup>th</sup> Century***

*Key Problem*

After the barbarian invasions of the Roman Empire and the collapse of its civilization, there was a gradual building up of knowledge from Christian, Muslim and Jewish philosophers. Platonic and Aristotelian philosophies were assimilated to give a rational interpretation of faith. Philosophy was characterized with religious orientation. The monasteries became the main centres of learning and education. Cathedral schools and Universities sprang

up also. However, due to Urban Development, the centre of learning was gradually shifted from Monasteries to the towns. The important philosophical questions that were raised at this time include: the question of universals, is that real or only/mere mental concepts? There is also the question of innate ideas and their origin, nature of true knowledge, divine providence and foreknowledge, chance, fate and human happiness. There is inquiry into the existence of God and discussions on the nature of truth.

#### *Major Schools of thought*

Among the great schools of medieval period were Neo-Platonism, Persian philosophers, the Jewish philosophers and British Empiricists. But the most dominant school is Scholasticism; it combined Metaphysics, Logic, Epistemology and Semantics into one discipline as it reconciles Aristotelian thought with Christian theology. Civilization and learning in 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> Centuries saw the emergence of Renaissance which was intolerant of religion and erected its philosophy on humanism and science.

#### *What the Philosophers Valued in this Period*

They were oriented towards world views and sought truth wherever it could be found. They made extensive travels in search of knowledge. They developed philosophy within faith as a means of throwing light on the truth and mysteries of faith. Religion and philosophy fruitfully co-operated. The Centre of education and learning was moved to the town to make it accessible to the public. Philosophers advised Pontiffs and Kings on religious and State affairs. They encouraged teaching in Universities, disputations and public lectures. They advocated being humble in character, simplicity, peace-loving and since many were Monks they were given to life of contemplation. They maintained self-control and refuse prestigious positions and political offices.

#### *c. Age of Reason to Modern Philosophy 15<sup>th</sup> Century to Date*

##### *Key Problem*

The opinion of some philosophers concerning this period was summarized by Jean d'Alembert who said; our century is the century of philosophy per excellence if one considers without bias the present state of our knowledge, one cannot deny that philosophy among us has shown progress (Elements of Philosophy, 1759). His understanding is based on the assertion that it was from this time that philosophizing first began to be professionalized and that the chief sign of this shift was the return of philosophy to Universities. It all started from Germany with the University of Halle (founded in 1694) in the times of Leibniz (died. 1716) and Kant (born 1724) to Christian Wolff (died. 1754). It is true that philosophical development at this period arose as a response to social needs. Renaissance of 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> centuries presented a different set of problems and engendered different lines of philosophical endeavour. There is

the invention of gunpowder from the East, Printing Machine in the West and Compass both in Western Europe and Islamic world in the 13<sup>th</sup> Century. Each of these inventions with its wider cultural consequences presented new intellectual problems and philosophical tasks within a changed political and social environment.

Renaissance mounted revolt against religion, reacted against the Church, Authority, Scholasticism and Aristotelian philosophy. Philosophical interest was centred on problems of civil society, man and nature. The dominant strands of Renaissance philosophy are political theory, humanism and the philosophy of nature. They became intellectual fathers of the Reformation. The influence of Protestant Reformation undermines the power of a single religious authority, Latin gave way to vernacular tongues and philosophers became more identified with their national origins. The works of Albert Magnus, Thomas Aquinas, Bonaventure, John Scotus and others of the like were not related to their country. On the other hand the works of Niccolo Machiavelli is based on Italian experience, Francis Bacon and Thomas Hobbes for English, Rene Descartes targeted French intellectuals. The age of Reason of the 17<sup>th</sup> Century and the age of Enlightenment of the 18<sup>th</sup> Century brought advances in science, liberalism and marked the beginnings of Modern Philosophy. Due to the emergence of various doctrines in philosophy, there was opposition between Rationalism and Empiricism, Dualism and Monism, Determinism and Relativism etc.

#### *Major Schools of thought*

The truth is that there exists more Philosophical Schools in Modern Philosophy than both the two earlier periods. As Philosophical ideologies continue to multiply in geometrical ratio so also are new doctrines increasing. Some of these schools include; Existentialism, Logical Positivism, Pragmatism, Deconstructionism, Humanism, Positivism, Romanticism, Utilitarianism and what have you. Philosophy became professionalized and Philosophers are now professionals in the universities, some are writers, others are in business and politics. Philosophy is no longer meant for the ordinary street person and its method is highly developed for elites and people of a special class.

#### *What the Philosophers Valued in this Period*

All efforts are directed towards professionalization of philosophy. Special methods are invented to achieve philosophical knowledge, new literary forms are adopted. There is a new conception of the scope of its subject matter and criteria of meaning and truth is based on rationality to surmount the challenges of the social structure within which it arises.

## 8.0 THE ROLE OF PHILOSOPHERS

The question on the role of philosophers in the society is challenging. There could be many ways to approach the issue of the role of philosophers, for instance, by prompting answers through questions. What is the role of philosophers in our society? Why do we study philosophy in the Seminary? Why is the study of philosophy compulsory for first and second year students in all Nigerian tertiary Institutions? What is the role of teachers in our society? What is the role of law in our society? What is the role of religion in our society? What is the role of journalists in our society? What is the role of politics in our society? If we are able to provide answers to these questions and the likes we will certainly be moving forward toward encompassing an answer. Whatever might be said however, it is important to acknowledge that the role of philosophers in the society has undergone a transition. As it was observed; the modern conception of a philosopher and philosophy developed predominantly through three changes; the first is the natural inclination of the philosophical mind. Philosophy is a tempting discipline which the individual can easily be carried away in analysing, for instance, the universe and other abstract theories. The second is the historical change through the Medieval Era. With the rise of Christianity, the philosophical way of life was adopted by its theology. Thus, philosophy was divided between a way of life and the conceptual, logical, physical and metaphysical materials to justify that way of life. Philosophy was then the servant of theology. The third is the sociological need with the development of universities. The modern university requires professors to teach. Maintaining itself requires teaching future professionals to replace the current faculty. Therefore, the discipline degrades into a technical language reserved for specialists, completely eschewing its original conception as a way of life (Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia, <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/philosopher>, retrieved 20-07-2017). Due to the present day understanding of philosophy and its role in our society, William Barrett says that, the profession of philosophy did not always have the narrow and specialized meaning it now has. In ancient Greece and Medieval Era philosophy had the very opposite: instead of a specialized theoretical discipline, philosophy was a concrete way of life, a total vision of man and the cosmos in whose light the individual's whole life was to be lived (Irrational Man, 1958).

In other fields of human endeavour, specialization is directed at the same time integrated. For instance, in the production of Automobiles, different groups specialize in producing Engine, Gear-Box, Brain-box and so forth but all of them work together in producing unique vehicles as we have them today. In the case of philosophers, their specialization isolates them from other entities of general human activities. If philosophers do not work today, the society might not come to a stand-still as it will be if doctors or engineers withdraw their services to the society. What is lacking in philosophy is that, their services are no longer made

available to the society where the rich and the poor, educated and uneducated avail themselves for their services.

Specialization has helped the modern world achieve some fits, however one of the defects of specialization is that every group looks at things and understand them from their particular perspective. Professional philosophers have lost the world view of reality and existence and focused on social and national issues. The Philosophical Society of America decried the situation we find philosophers and philosophy today as it observes that, to profess, is to confess or declare openly, to acknowledge a calling before the world. But in our present society, with its elaborate subdividing of human functions, a profession is the specialized social task – requiring expertness and know-how – that one performs for pay: it is a living, one's livelihood. Professionals are lawyers, doctors, dentists, engineers – and also professors of philosophy. The price one pays for having a profession is a *deformation on professionelle* (a professional deformation) as French puts it. As a human being, functioning professionally within the Academy, the philosopher can hardly be expected to escape his own professional deformation, especially, since it has become a law in modern society that man is assimilated more and more completely to his social function. And it is just here, that a troublesome and profound ambiguity resides for the philosopher today (Philosophical Society.com, retrieved 19-07-2017, <http://philosocalsociety.com/Archives/Philosophers' Role In Society>). As a result of these John S. Wilkins has this to say; philosophy programs are being downgraded or even closed around the world. In Queensland, only one major philosophy department was left after the entirety of Humanities was closed at other universities. Proper philosophy programs are becoming much rarer (The nature of philosophy and its role in modern society – Evolving, <http://evolvingthoughts.net/2011/02/the-nature-of-philosophy-and-its-...> retrieved 19-07-2017,).

However, there is still a little light at the end of the tunnel. It is acknowledged that, since the 20th century, professional philosophers contribute to society primarily as professors, researchers and writers. However, many of those who study philosophy in undergraduate or graduate programs contribute in the fields of law, journalism, politics, religion, science, business and various arts and entertainment activities (Philosophy-Wikipedia <https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki>, retrieved 20-07-2017). The truth still remain as Schopenhauer saliently noted, generally speaking university philosophy is mere fencing in front of a mirror. In the last analysis, its goal is to give students opinions which are to be liken to a minister who hands out the Chairs. As a result, the state-financed philosophy makes a joke of philosophy. And yet, if there is one thing desirable in this world, it is to see a ray of light fall onto the darkness of our lives,

shedding some light on the mysterious enigma of our existence (Arthur Schopenhauer, retrieved 20-07-2017 <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Philosopher>).

## **9.0 SOME NOTABLE REMARKS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is important to note that many things in life could be interchanged, for instance, when the need arises to look out for something in the dark, one could use electric light or candle light. However, when you come to wisdom it has no substitute whatsoever. It is this and no other, you may have or do not have it. One may argue that wisdom could be possessed at different levels which may be higher or lower, but this is not the point. The point is that human beings need wisdom to survive and without wisdom no one can predict what will happen. The need for wisdom is important to humanity as it were in ages past. Therefore, to think that philosophy is obsolete or that it has reached the end of its usefulness is an error.

- The world needs philosophers but not those who propound theories that lack applications and confuse simple minds.
- Philosophers like Plato, Aristotle, Thomas Aquinas, Descartes etc. propounded theories that are useful for ages and if such ground breaking knowledge like theirs were achieved today, it will be relevant to people everywhere.
- Knowledge is continuous; it develops from one stage to another. If new philosophical theories make new insights, they will strengthen human knowledge which cannot be denied by anyone. So there is the need for true insights into knowledge that bring philosophy closer to the truth.
- Professionalizing philosophy is simply following the crowd, what is rather needed is intuitive insights that open the door of higher realm to humanity as of old instead of concentrating all efforts on studying physical nature.

## **10. CONCLUSION**

Philosophy from of old has been the natural guiding light to humanity. It is a way of thinking about the world, the universe, society, religion, existence and God. Philosophy also studies the connections between them. The enigma of nature and how humans find themselves amidst this is still very strange to humans. The quest to search and inquire continues to be urgent each day and the human being cannot rest when anxiety, confusion and fear is all around him. We need wisdom that searches for both natural and eternal truths. It is the onus of every generation to contribute its own quota to this general human aspiration.

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