



Spiritual Treasure In "The Essays Or Counsels, Civil And Moral" Of Francis Bacon

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Abstract. The famous English philosopher, statesman and thinker Francis Bacon is an author who made a great contribution to the development of the essay genre in the literature and philosophy of the European Renaissance. His book "The Essays or Counsels, Civil and Moral" (1625) is considered one of the valuable and rare works of not only of English but the world literature. This article is dedicated to the study of the unique thoughts expressed by the great English thinker in this literary source, and the author tried to convey to the reader his personal feelings as to the philosophical and moral thoughts expressed in the work concerning the inner worldview of the English thinker in the process of translating of the 15 essays of Francis Bacon directly from the original version into Uzbek language.

Keywords: spiritual, Essays, philosopher, genius, knowledge, Renaissance, source, politician, wisdom.

Introduction

The work on translations of selected excerpts from the remarkable treatise of the outstanding English philosopher and thinker of the late Renaissance entitled "The Essays or Counsels, Civil and Moral" by Francis Bacon [5], gave us the reason that, in the end, we can draw the final line to our author's thoughts in motivation, in the hope of analyzing, and sometimes philosophize a little on topics related to the "Essays" of Francis Bacon, a philosopher, writer, politician and statesman, a man of the late English Renaissance (XVII century).

Francis Bacon is a great thinker, philosopher, lifelong essayist, jurist and statesman. Bacon's life, in his own words, is a word with sad wings, that is a life hidden, deep in its own wisdom, and of great danger. Moreover, this is still not a complete explanation. It must have been different if his long and important public career meant anything, this life, for it is preserved in dozens of his letters, as well as personal papers, work, parliamentary reports, and stories of his rise and fall from high office [3;5;7].

Undoubtedly, among all the artists, writers, philosophers who were lucky enough to start their creative lives together in England in the 1590s, we know the most about Francis Bacon. Nevertheless, he is still waiting for his scientific researcher, although many have already managed to tell a lot about his life and creative path. Francis Bacon's genius is best revealed in his "Essays". Bacon's knowledge was based on the classical texts of ancient Greece and Rome, but he brought brilliance and original color to the dreary scholasticism of medieval literature. Regardless of the subject, whether it is the personal stuff in "the Essays" - an essay called "On Friendship" or another piece as abstract as the "Essay on Truth" - these essays provide a synthesis of rhetoric and philosophy, and perhaps they are Bacon's literary and the most complete and completed examples of philosophical style [8;9]. Instead



of summarizing common and popular philosophical ideas or creating quick expositions of the understanding of right behavior, Bacon tried to fundamentally change the way people think. He believed that rhetoric as a power of eloquence and persuasion could turn the human mind to the pure light of reason, and Bacon certainly achieved this. Against the background of already existing masterpieces of world literature, Bacon's "Essays", which gave deeply philosophical reflections to world science, are distinguished by the unfading beauty of the European culture of the Renaissance.

Like any world-class masterpiece, this book was destined for a long historical life. It is not for nothing that the entire cultural thought of Europe, from Bacon's contemporaries to representatives of later times, read the "Essays" with pleasure and deep lust and perceived this book as a pearl of world culture, because this work shocked the abstract feelings in the inner world of every person, showed that these are the feelings not only of a great genius, but also of an ordinary person.

Discussion and Analysis

It would not be an exaggeration to say that the "Essays" belong to the books that have long been called "creations for the ages." With its high structure of thought, free flowing writing, and dispassionate storytelling style, this book is as powerful in its ideas as it is in the thought that flows like a fountain in each of the essays in this work. Francis Bacon is a rare conversationalist with intelligence, charm and tact. His "Essays" - step by step - lead to reflections on the fate of the world and the vicissitudes of history, awakening a taste for healthy, sober independence in judgments and actions. The author's flow of thought is generous, full of life experience, sometimes cunning, reliable - a powerful cleansing and enlightening force. This book contains the unspent wisdom and mental health of a person, wise by the experience of political and social life [5].

The "The Essays or Counsels, Civil and Moral" is a wonderful, emotional book. The world that emerges from its pages fascinates from the very beginning with its diversity and almost primeval chaos. Bacon writes about different things: about truth, about death, about monotheism, about revenge, about poverty and hypocrisy, about parents and children, about the art of government, about suspicion, about youth and old age, about prophecies, about gardens, about parties, about friendship and so on. Whatever Bacon wrote about in the Essays - the art of conversation, etiquette and its strict observance, business ability, wealth and expenses, promotion, love, friendship and deceit, fame, honor and glory - he always took into account these aspects of the issue and considered the possibility of conducting evaluations, recommendations and revisions based on appropriate criteria. Because he set himself very specific tasks - he encouraged us to turn to a real, even everyday examples, in order to try to understand those tests, means and factors of the human will that are subject to one or another moral assessment. And such an assessment found its loving and understanding reader, and the author's fame went far beyond the borders of Britain, taking an equal and worthy place along with the "Essays" of the great French philosopher and politician of the XVI century, Michel de Montaigne.

It should be noted, however, that, according to the testimony of the overwhelming majority of critics of his work, the light, elegant manner of writing of Francis Bacon at one time gave reason for many to imitate, but his handwriting is inimitable and, in its own way, unique, and excellent knowledge of the wisdom of the ancients - philosophers and thinkers of antiquity - a convincing basis for the uniqueness and originality of Bacon's handwriting. And his "Essays" are one of the remarkable and outstanding monuments of English culture of the late XVI - early XVII centuries. This work is a work of a special kind that has nothing in common with a special philosophical treatise



or an essay on a specific socio-political topic [2;9].

What, after all, can each of us gain something useful from the “Essays” in those selected passages that were presented in our translation? Why is this work still relevant today for each of us, especially for young people? No doubt, everyone will find the answers to these questions for themselves, delving into this outstanding work entitled “Essays or Counsels, Civil and Moral” in their own way.

And yet, without fear of repeating ourselves, we will nevertheless take the liberty of once again confirming that Francis Bacon himself, as a pioneer of English essays, did not regard his teaching as the ultimate truth. He directly and frankly brought him face to face with the future. Bacon says: “I do not claim, however, that nothing can be added to this; on the contrary, considering the mind not only in its own abilities, but also in its connection with things, it should be recognized that the art of discovery can make progress along with the success of the discoveries themselves” [9, p.457].

Francis Bacon considered a pioneer in the development of “natural” philosophy, was also one of those who laid the foundation in England for the concept of the so-called “natural” morality, the construction of ethics, although involved in theology, but mainly without the help of religious ideas, based on rationally assimilated worldly life aspirations and effects of the human personality [2;5;8]. Bacon, in his own way, did in England the same thing that Montaigne had done somewhat earlier in France. But he set himself another task: by turning to examples of real, even everyday life, to try to understand the ways, means and incentives of that human expression of will, which is subject to one or another moral assessment. Therefore, along with the thesis “the common good is above all,” Bacon defends and develops another: “man is the architect of his own happiness.” We just need to be able to intelligently determine the meaning and value of all things depending on how much they contribute to the achievement of our ultimate goals - mental health and strength, wealth, social status and prestige.

Bacon's "Essays or Counsels, Civil and Moral" contain at times quite a subtle analysis and a lively, surprisingly aptly noted description of the whole spectrum of human manifestations - secrecy and guile, love and envy, courage and cunning, kindness and suspicion, selfishness and vanity, arrogance and anger. Bacon, in a purely English manner - cold-blooded and dispassionate - discusses all these properties of human nature, points out their varieties and gradations, gives examples, gives assessments and draws his conclusions based on his rich life experience.

Whatever topics Bacon touches on - be it about the art of conversation or about manners and decorum, about the ability to conduct business or about wealth and expenses, about achieving high office, about love, friendship and cunning, about ambition, honor and fame - he constantly has this aspect of the matter in mind, basing his assessments, judgments and recommendations on the criteria corresponding to it. He writes: “I do not at all want all these characteristics to be perceived in ethics as integral images of people (as is the case in poetic and historical works and in everyday conversations), “rather, these should be some more simple elements and individual character traits, the mixing and combination of which creates certain images... it is necessary to establish how many such elements and traits exist, what they are and which ones allow mutual combinations” [9, p. 394].

By the way, if we analyze this work with another equally famous work, but this time by the great French thinker and philosopher of the 16th century Michel de Montaigne with a similar title known as “Les Essays”, we can inevitably come to the following conclusion: a small comparison of the two outstanding works with the same title “Essays” - Francis Bacon and Michel de Montaigne as two outstanding representatives of the English and French Renaissance indicates that they are related



by a common genre, theme, even title, and a number of essays. Having borrowed the manner of his thoughts from Montaigne, Bacon, at the same time, makes completely different emphasis in his philosophical thoughts. Montaigne's focus is on man as a natural, living being, directly feeling and thinking, and on a broad critical study of all the conditions of his existence.

The focus of Bacon's attention is maximally reduced and concentrated, first of all, on human behavior and its assessment from the point of view of achieving certain results [2]. At the same time, it should be pointed out that in his reflections there is not that degree of self-absorption, gentleness, skepticism, humor, bright and independent perception of the world that we find in Montaigne's "Essays," where the author is focused primarily on identifying his own "Ego", while Bacon is motivated only by cold objectivism and a concentrated analysis of what should provide a person with his position and success in society. Bacon's attention, as a true Englishman, is entirely directed to figuring out how to achieve a high position and how to behave in order to maintain it and not fall too low. His reasoning is sober and practical, as befits a true Englishman.

And yet, what he created in this area, in its own way, is also indicative of Bacon - a thinker and a person, as well as for the time and society in which he lived. And yet it is not only an indicative and significant document of the time. The work of Francis Bacon is one of those wonderful works of history, acquaintance with which continues to enrich us today, since people in general are enriched and somehow guided by the human ideological past in the frank and impressive presentation of a talented and intelligent writer and thinker.

In the Dedication to the 1625 edition of the "Essays", addressing his patron, the Duke of Buckingham, Bacon notes: "I hope that the Latin edition (being in an international language) will live as long as books live," since "they belong to the best fruits that by God's grace my pen could bring." And he turned out to be right: the readership of "Essays" became of a universal scale, and the book, having crossed all the boundaries of world civilization, turned out to be a treasure for centuries [9].

Constantly summarizing his rich life experience, comparing the results of this analysis with observations of people around him and current events, with wisdom drawn from ancient books, Bacon came to conclusions of a universal nature, which made his "The Essays or Counsels, Civil and Moral" a book about a man - a man of Bacon's generation, a man of a new emerging society, man in general; and this analysis of human nature, revealed in a new way, gives the "Essays" special value, for here Bacon strives to capture the most seemingly subtle, invisibly perceptible movements of the human soul, determined by the dictates of his time. The result of the philosopher's reflections is a masterfully and originally written work of English literature, along with Montaigne's Essays, summarizing the progressive aspirations of his era and, in general, of all world's cultural thought. At the same time, this is a practical guide to a truly civil-democratic structure of the state and society, indicating the path to the formation of youth as a future of every state in the spirit of the bright dreams of our great ancestors-enlighteners, starting from the period of the Eastern Renaissance (IX-XII centuries) and up to the innermost aspirations of the Jadids of the beginning of the XX century.

Conclusion

The genius - philosophical and literary - of Francis Bacon is best revealed, like a cut diamond, in his Essays. Bacon's encyclopedic education was based, first of all, on the classical texts of Ancient Greece and Rome, on the treasury of wisdom of the thinkers of those eras, but his unique gift lies in the fact that he was able to bring brightness and colorfulness to the stale scholasticism of medieval



book learning. Paradoxically, whatever their subject may be, be it something as personal as the part of the essay called "friendship" or as abstract as the other part called "truth", these essays combine a synthesis of rhetoric and philosophy, and, perhaps, are the most complete and complete examples of Bacon's unique literary and philosophical style. Instead of simply and popularly generalizing philosophical thought or creating glib expositions of the understanding of correct behavior, Bacon, it seems to us, made an attempt - and a very successful one - to radically change the stereotypical way of thinking of the people of his era, but not only of his era. He believed that rhetoric, as the power of eloquence and persuasion in the understanding of Aristotle, Plato or Tacitus, could incline the human mind to the pure light of reason illuminating, like a guiding star, the path to a bright future. It is these ideas that Bacon is dear to us today, for this invaluable heritage of a spiritual-philosophical nature helps everyone who is ready to feel like a builder of the foundations of the third Renaissance in our state.

Francis Bacon's "Essays or Counsels, Civil and Moral" has been served readers for four centuries as an inexhaustible source of serious thought and lively pleasure, covering all the most important problems of his time. Undoubtedly, such a fate awaits the "Essays" for centuries.

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