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The Quarrel of Sciences

Summary

However strange it may seem, ethnology and sociology, sciences that have the same ‘age’, and approximately the same object of study – the human being in action – do not respect their neighbouring parts, do not form associations of ideas, as we might expect, and they do not advance actions of collaboration, either, even when the higher interest for human knowledge might seem to impose such collaboration. It is true that the first of the two seems to be more settled, mastering its means better, and being more generous in ideas; while the second, is more active, more politically relevant, and works on a research field which is less heterogeneous – these are aspects that place it in the centre of modernity. Hereby, thus, springs the trumps of this wonder child of socio-humanistic sciences, but which, as some foul mouths state (together with psychoanalysis), was born with the help of the forceps.

We may, thus, retain, from our own perspectives, the opportunity of the sociologic direction, with the necessary clarification that it is useful in so much as it proves to be preoccupied, efficiently, with the valorization of the aesthetic experience that comes from the domain of orality. In other words, we should see to which level of abstraction (and autonomy in arts), or empiricism (the manifest utilitarianism of the social function) we may take the discussion on this field, and from which point we should transfer the discussion to other domains, for the necessary clarifications.

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