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BEING-WITH-OTHERS: METAPHYSICS OF SOCIAL RELATIONS

Mike Oni, Jim Ijenwa Unah

Department of Philosophy, Faculty of Arts,

University of Lagos

olatunjib19@gmail.com, 08055057345

This paper argues the thesis that the recognition of the freedom of Others is germane to peaceful co-existence, which is imperative for sustainable developmental goals. The aim is to demonstrate that the authentic pathway to peace and development in a plural society is the acceptance of the freedom of Others; the rejection of which is often an open invitation to anarchy. The freedom of the Others is a brute fact that can neither be denied nor wished away. Though the individual is charged with the responsibility to affirm his being and actualise his historical possibilities, findings from ontological analysis reveal that humans still need social relations to actualize their enlightened self-interest. It is obvious then that the pursuit of authenticity by the individual does not promote the elimination of the Others; for “the self is not alone or isolated from others”.

Evidently, a philosophy of social relations that fosters the conditions of egalitarianism and unfettered access of everyone to discourse; to recognition, and participation in every sphere of existence is the foundation of the concept of inclusivity. The work thus offers an alternative paradigm for societal peace through the metaphysics of being-with-others, which is an inclusive understanding of human reality. The orientation of this paper is that human beings as social beings must recognize not only the existence of the Others, but also their right to participation, care and attention. Thus, a philosophy of being-with-others is the antidote to social insurrection. The method of this research is hermeneutics or interpretative discourse of existing concepts.

Keywords: Metaphysics, Freedom, Authenticity, Beingwith-Others, Hermeneutics.