

In the regular consideration of human philosophy, soul is a never ending topic for debating of philosopher. The Upanishad called the soul is an atman, and that each of us have our own atman. In contrast to this view, Buddha's views said there is nothing such as atman. On the other hand, "The soul is the first actuality of a natural body that has life potentially." . Aristotle break the soul into three component and rank it as nutritive, appetitive and rational soul. In this paper, we will look at why Aristotle said human animal is a rational animal.

Aristotle's view was the substantial reality of human body is the union of body and the soul. Without the soul the body does not exist as a unity, and the soul cannot exist apart from it body .The first part of the soul is the nutritive soul. This part of the soul is possessed by most of living organism in the planet. Therefore, anything that is borned, grow, mature, aged and decompose, possed nutritive soul. Nutritive soul can be found in human, animal and plant as well. A plant is first growth up, absorb sunlight and reproduce , then die. The plant doesn't have any higher purpose than living. However, the plant does not the appetitive part . Aristotle describe the appetitive soul give human and animal the ability to feel pain, satisfied, and desire , self-locomotion which is the ability to move from one place to another. According to Aristotle, this ability is achieved through sensory. Moreover, "animals that possess the sense of touch also have appetition"(De Anima) .For example, a dog can feel the floor is heated because the skin on feet signal him, his nose allow him to smell food which create desire for food. However, Aristotle believe that appetitive soul is differ among animal. Some may possess more or less than the others. Eventhough, both human and animal have the appetitive and the nutritive part, but he believe that animal does not have belief, because to have belief, you must have the ability to believe, and that is a cognitive function, that is why animal does not have the rational

soul .The rational soul is what make human a rational animal. This rational soul is split into 2 sub category which are the calculative side and the scientific side. Aristotle describe the scientific as “For imagining lies within our own power whenever we wish” (De Anima) .The scientific side would help us to collect , filter and store information .Calculative side help us to do weight , calculate the information and see what is right and what is wrong , so we could make decision.

I would disagree with Aristotle because human animal have the capability for being rational, does not mean that human being is rational. Human being is irrational animal because of 2 reason. First, tend to take the shortest path in processing information to arrive at decision. The famous example is the baseball - . “A bat and a ball cost \$1.10 in total. The bat costs \$1.00 more than the ball. How much does the ball cost?” . I know you just said 10 cent . But that is wrong. But don’t feel bad because 50% Harvard and MIT student failed to answer this question as well. By the way, the answer is 5 cent

If I am Aristotle, i would say that making wrong decision is not the same with being irrational. We are still rational animal, but we just taking the wrong input to arrive at a wrong decision. To arrive at that decision , you still need to perform calculation, and taking retrieve information from historical experience. Moreover, you can rationalize what is irrational . For example, if i ask that baseball bat question again , you are now for sure get the right answer, and we can conclude that we tend to have the tendency to choose the decision that require the least processing .That is why human is a rational

animal because we are rational enough learn from our mistake, and avoid its mistake in a future.

In summary, we can the soul irrational and rational. The irrational part have the nutritive and the appetitive soul. The rational soul have the ability to perform calculation, memory and imagination, however, having the ability to be rational doesn't always mean we make right decision. But because we are rational so we would learn from our mistake to make better decision in the future.

Work Cite :

"Aristotle De Anima Primary Text":

<http://classics.mit.edu/Aristotle/soul.html>. Retrieved 9/8/2016.