



## Dialogue

A particular mode of relationship between human beings, or, in a more abstract way, between human beings and their place, which can be their natural environment, history, tradition, culture, the present world, or other communities. The dialogue is usually associated with the idea of conversation involving participants on an equal footing. In essence, the dialogue implies mutual consideration, trust, and readiness to be renewed by otherness. The identity of the I starts to shine in the light of the thou and, vice versa, the thou comes to life in the light of the I, not with the aim of preserving differences and similarities, on the contrary, with the aim of letting entities be renewed by facing each other. The dialogue is therefore an ethical praxis involving several participants who are open to questioning instead of seeking to impose a scheme to solve problems. The dialogue has a long history and has even played a foundational role in world philosophy. Much of philosophy in the West and Asia emerged from dialogues. There are countless examples of dialogues that have given shape to philosophical thinking. The 20th century saw the emergence of all-encompassing philosophies of dialogue that have sought not only to find ways of negotiating with otherness but also to explore what it means to lead an authentic existence in the light of otherness.

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### **Main sources:**

Dialog of Pessimism (Arad Mitanguranni, ca. 1000 BCE)

The Mahābhārata (ca. 500 BCE) Buddha - Long Discourses (6 th/5th c. BCE)

Confucius - The Analects (論語 Lunyu, ca. 500 BCE)

Socrates - Gorgias (Γοργίας, ca. 380 BCE)

Seneca - On the Shortness of Life (De Brevitate Vitae, 1st century)

Augustine – Soliloquies (Soliloquia, ca. 386)

Yehuda Abrabanel ben Ishaq - Dialogues of Love (Dialoghi di Amore, ca. 1535)

Nicolas Malebranche - Dialogue between a Christian Philosopher and a Chinese Philosopher on the Existence and Nature of God (Entretien d'un philosophe chrétien et d'un philosophe chinois sur l'existence et la nature de dieu, 1708)

George Berkeley - Three Dialogues between Hylas and Philonous (1713)

Denis Diderot - Conversation between D'Alembert and Diderot (1769)

Karl Jaspers - Socrates, Buddha, Confucius, Jesus (1962)

Martin Buber - I and Thou (Ich und Du, 1923) Nishida Kitaro - I and Thou (私と汝 Watakushi to Nanji, 1932)

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Tzvetan Todorov - On Human Diversity: Nationalism, Racism, and Exotism in French Thought (Nous et les autres, La reflexion française sur la diversité humaine, 1989)

Useful link: Encyclopædia Britannica

<http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/161272/dialogue>