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Synergistic Foundations of Ethical Phenomena

Historically the meaning of the word *ethos* stems from the conditions of shared dwelling, from the norms that unite society, thus contributing to overcoming individualism and aggressiveness of its members. With the developing of human civilization, this meaning is enriched by the study of such categories as conscience, good and evil, sympathy, friendship, empathy, the meaning of life, self-sacrifice, and so on.

The concepts worked out by ethics – mercy, justice, friendship, solidarity and others – guide the moral development of social institutions and relations. Therefore, when analyzing ethical phenomena, it is advisable to use a synergistic paradigm reflecting the phenomenon of society solidarity/integrity.

As R. Benedict has showed, societies with a high level of synergy exhibit a low level of aggression of their members and a high level of cooperation, characterized by high trust, a sense of responsibility and minimal centralization [Benedict, 1970].

A. Maslow has showed that in societies with a high level of synergy there is such an order when the actions of an individual, which are aimed at achieving personal gain, turn out to be beneficial for the whole society. Here the spirit of goodwill, hope for the best are developed, while people living in societies with a low level of synergy are characterized by feeling of fear, humiliation, uncertainty

about the future, when the success of one individual is determined by the defeat of another. In societies with a high level of synergy power and wealth are quite equally distributed among people, while in societies with a low level of synergy, power and wealth tend to be concentrated [Maslow, 1964, 1976].

Key words: ethos, synergistic approach, levels of synergy, social synergy, moral development, social institutions and relations, human civilization.

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