

Preface

The present work is intended as a study of the philosophical problem of time. The problem of time is not an isolated one; it is rather a group of problems arising out of the intimate relationship of time with space, motion, change and the causal nexus. Hence, a proper understanding of the problem of time requires a study of these concepts as well. It is to be admitted that the temporal involvements of these concepts have made the problem of time taxing enough and at the same time most interesting.

Time seems to be an inalienable feature of the world of our experience. An understanding of the nature of time is a prerequisite of any adequate philosophic vision of reality. Philosophical analysis, however, discloses some paradoxes in the heart of the conception of time. It is then only natural that attempts to solve the paradoxes should have prominence in any discussion on time.

The present writer, however, dare not claim that she has solved all these paradoxes. Time, as C.D. Broad said, is 'the hardest knot in the whole of philosophy'. The present writer has tried to state and analyse the problems as they are relevant to contemporary philosophical scene. The approach however is not historical; but at times history of the philosophy of time has surfaced itself as relevant to the discussion of the problems. Hence philosophers starting from Parmenides downwards have entered the discussion as we proceeded. It is interesting to know that some of the problems with which we have struggled were also as much kicking to our distant forefathers two thousand years ago.

The present writer is painfully aware of her limitations, of the incompleteness of her work. There are many questions relating time that have been left unasked, many riddles left unsolved. To repeat, time indeed is a difficult subject to treat satisfactorily.

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