

On the Philosophical Foundations of Inter-cultural Dialogue

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We live in a world in which interaction between peoples, cultures and religions is increasing. To achieve success in inter-cultural dialogue, it is important to determine its bases and clarify its structure. The paper examines the art of inter-cultural dialogue by appealing to major forms within the philosophical traditions of the East and the West, whereby philosophy offers models of dialogue that we can apply to inter-cultural dialogue. To be fruitful, inter-cultural dialogue requires in the participants such mental attitudes as respect, listening, sincerity, openness, and willingness to receive and to work with one another and to consider the convictions, truth claims and values of the other. It also presupposes the ability to clearly determine and express one's own convictions, truth claims and values rather than to escape into a general relativism, subjectivism and skepticism. To give up one's truth claims or one's search for the truth in all matters will not lead to furthering inter-cultural, inter-religious or philosophical dialogue.