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From Method to the Foundation of Metaphysics in Descartes

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Abstract:

In this research paper, we have discussed one of the philosophers of the modern era, indeed the father of modern philosophy, trying to determine the place of reason in his philosophy and understand his rational mathematical method, which, through its application to philosophy and nature, enabled him to arrive at certain truths that rise to the level of self-evident truth due to the solidity of its certain premises and the rigor of the gradual method from premises to conclusions by way of intuition and deduction. This was a major impetus for philosophy to reproduce a clear and distinct heritage, and to establish a new metaphysics that emerged because of establishing this method.

Keywords Method - Descartes - Metaphysics.

1- Introduction:

Descartes' interest in the issue of method was accompanied by Since his early education, as evidenced by his early youth writings, He wanted to create a path leading to the truth that would start from the simplest and clearest ideas, then gradually move up in thinking until he reached a level he had never reached before. In doing so, he started from a critique of the ways of thinking he had seen. As he says, "Bye said in his book "The Life of Descartes": "He reasoned from a letter that Descartes sent to Father Poisson. Poisson said that he had been thinking about the method since he was a student at the La Flèche Institute,¹As confirms Descartes same In the first part of writing "The article on the method: "But I am not afraid to say what I believe, that I have been very successful, for I have found myself since my youth in some ways that led me to views and wisdom, from which I composed a method It seems to me that I have a means of gradually increasing my knowledge, and of raising it a little to the highest degree which the weakness of my mind and the shortness of my life span will permit of it....for I have reaped the fruits of that method which have made me try, in the judgments I form about

¹Ghaidan Al-Sayed Ali, Descartes and the Rational Method, Muqaddimat Magazine, Issue No. 5, p. 73.

myself, to lean towards caution...so I may venture to say that it is the work which I have chosen."¹

It shows us Descartes His early beginnings index pression on Writing this curriculum, When he was alone in a room, his mind was occupied with nothing but thinking, As he says at the beginning of the second section of the article: "I was then in Germany, when the wars which had not yet ended there called me, and when I was returning from the Emperor's coronation to the army, the onset of winter forced me to a village where I found nothing of conversation to distract me, although I had, fortunately, nothing to worry me of, neither care nor passion, and I was core I spent the whole day in a warm room, where I had every opportunity to direct my energy to thought."².

Jawn Descartes' concern was to search for a new method. Controlling all his thoughts On November 10, 1619 AD, he discovered the foundations of an important science, which he included in his book "Discourse on the Method." Inside his warm room, he was spending his time talking to himself and contemplating his thoughts. Then he had a vision that included three visions. He saw two visions in his sleep. The first informed him that God had chosen him and selected him to discover the truth! As for the third vision, he saw a dictionary (and perhaps the meaning of this dictionary indicated that all sciences were included in one science). Then he saw a collection of poetry. (and Its interpretation is the joining of philosophy to wisdom..³

The question here is: What is Descartes' concept of method or approach? What are its steps? And how was he able, through it, to transcend Aristotelian or previous metaphysics and establish a new, transcendent metaphysics based on rational certainties?

¹Descartes, Discourse on Method, trans. Mahmoud Mohamed El-Khodairy, 2nd ed., Cairo, Egypt: Dar El-Kateb El-Arabi for Printing and Publishing, 1968, pp. 110-111.

²Descartes, Discourse on the Method, p. 121.

³Ghadban Sayed Ali, Descartes and the Rational Method, p. 73.

2- Foundations

Curriculum According to Descartes:

Descartes gave a definition of method in his book, "Rules for the Direction of the Mind": "By method, I mean a set of easy, certain rules that protect anyone who strictly observes them from misinterpreting error as correctness, and thus arrives at the knowledge of what he is worthy of knowing, by developing his knowledge in a gradual, continuous manner without wasting any mental effort."¹He strives to seek simplicity, clarity and certainty in the works of the mind, then he gradually moves in his thinking to other clear and certain issues. Thus, he avoids error by observing these simple rules, without wasting his thinking on unreliable issues.

Therefore, the method is those simple and clear steps that lead to correct knowledge and that move a person gradually towards the new and do not stop at a certain limit, as it was in The past with Aristotelian syllogism knowledge is included in the premises, so Descartes saw the sterility of the Aristotelian method.

and We can record In Descartes' view of the method Three elements:²

First: All sciences are represented in one science, and one key opens its treasures.

Second: The invitation that the philosopher received to search for that key has...This from God Not by a cunning devil.

Third: The search for the key lies within itself, because the truth lies within it as fire lies within flint. The significance of this Cartesian discovery, which occurred on the night of November 10, is that all sciences are one, gathered in the philosophy or wisdom that we find latent within ourselves, and that God chose Descartes to build it.

Therefore, the study Descartes' method and steps We need to talk about Two basic principles They are as we see: The principle of independence of mind, and the principle of equality of minds.

¹Descartes, Rules for the Direction of Reason, trans. Sufyan Saad Allah, Tunis: Dar Sarras for Printing and Publishing, 2001, p. 40.

²Ghadban Sayed Ali, Descartes and the Rational Method, p. 74.

-The first principle is an implicit one, meaning that comprehensive knowledge of itself must begin with the complete independence of reason, free from all scientific or non-scientific authority. He was referring in this way to the authority of Aristotle in his time and to the clergy who supported him, who used his logic and philosophy to defend the religious doctrines of the church.¹

-As for the second principle, it is the principle of equality between minds, as he says at the beginning of the article on the method: "The mind is the best of things to be distributed equally among people."...and in reality it is what is called reason or speech, and is equal among all people by nature"²So Descartes acknowledges from the beginning that reason is the most fairly divided thing among people, and no one person is distinguished from another by a quantitative increase in reason, but what makes people distinct is how each one of them uses his reason. Descartes says about the faculty of reason or speech that it is: equal among all people by nature. He also testifies that the difference in our opinions does not arise from some being more rational than others, but rather arises from the fact that we direct our thoughts in different ways, and each of us does not look at the same thing as the other, because it is not enough for a person to have a mind, but rather the important thing is to make good use of it. And so SoWe all have the ability to reach the truth, and some of us may be smarter than others, but the ability to distinguish and make sound judgment is the same among people. All of them. If the mind has its independence, and if it accepts its ability to know, it will inevitably strive for truth and knowledge.

¹Ghadban Al-Sayed Ali, Descartes and the Rational Method, p. 74.

²Descartes, Discourse on the Method, p. 109.

Descartes' method is based on two foundations:

2-1-Intuition principle:

"By intuition, I do not mean the testimony of the altered senses or a deceptive judgment generated by the imagination that constructs its subject in a bad way. Rather, I mean the conception that pure, attentive thought creates with such ease and distinction that there is no room for doubt about what you understand or, It's the same thing., It is the conception that is created by pure, attentive thought, generated by the light of reason alone, and since it is simpler, it is therefore more reliable. More than the same conclusion".¹

"Intuition is the pure abstract meaning that the mind forms as a result of its interest in studying a subject. It is direct mental knowledge that occurs without an intermediary. This process is simple, not complex, resulting from the innate light present within us. Therefore, the ideas that you form through intuition are correct and certain."².

Descartes differentiate between the natures of knowledge. There is simple, pure knowledge, which is characterized by the characteristics of clarity and distinction. This is the knowledge that can be called intuition., It is the simplest of knowledge in the chain of knowledge, and there are other natures that cannot be perceived except by using that simple one and deducing it from it. where "There are a few simple pure natures that Nat first glance, looking at it alone, we can see it as an intuition, separate from all other natures. Either through experiences, or through the light within us."³

2-2-Principle of deduction:

"It means Deduction transmission mind from issue or several Issues she Introductions to issue Other she The result according to rules Logic, And not from necessary that He is Moving on from The year to private or from kidney to Partial. And Explain photo Deduction Proof Sports, And in it is done Moving from The

¹Descartes, Rules for the Direction of the Mind, p. 36.

²Bourhala Naima, The Mathematical Method in the Philosophy of René Descartes, Al-Mi'yar Magazine, Volume 14, Issue 1, June 2023, p. 1095.

³Descartes, Rules for the Direction of the Mind, p. 51.

thing to what Equal to him but rather from The specialist to The most general And the measurement Aristotle door From him, And its basis Moving from kidney to Partial.¹Thus, deduction is a second process that comes after intuition and evaluates its results on certain intuitive premises.

Descartes no He means By deduction model Measurement Aristotle on For example, But He means To him that Move from an idea conjecture to a result she has Issued About her Chests necessary-any no maybe imagine Its opposite-And then Be Results The deduced conjecture she Other As long as that Descartes He was Admiring, but rather He was Believer In mathematics and its curricula Lost wanted that It is done Deduction Philosophical In the same way road Deduction athlete where Performed Its results to information New did not Be Included in The idea Nationality original².Here we find Descartes employing the mathematical method to reach knowledge, a method that starts from self-evident truths and builds upon them other truths that were not apparent.

unless that it not from Ease In a place that Discover Intuitively Principles First For your information And philosophy then You do In operation deduction New, And we here We seek help By experience And its role Vital in order to Help us on discovery Results Correct that He fell On it Our choice In the picture no Accept doubt. And so Intuition And deduction And the experience in Stages that It is necessary We have to Follow it To reach to knowledge The truth certainty, On condition that Good at Use it In a way Correct.³

Descartes presented his mathematical method based on mathematics, but he did not give mathematics, which is composed of numbers and figures (as a science), but rather linked philosophy to the formal form of mathematics, because it works to mature the mind, direct it, control it, and qualify it to acquire truths, and protect thought in its movement starting from the premises and arriving at the results and deducing truths, which is what Descartes emphasized when he spoke about

¹Ibrahim Mustafa Ibrahim, Modern Philosophy from Descartes to Hume, Alexandria, Egypt: Dar Al-Wafa for Printing and Publishing, 2000, p. 80.

²Ibrahim Mustafa Ibrahim, Modern Philosophy from Descartes to Hume, p. 80.

³The same, p. 80.

science, which is an external form of mathematics without stopping at its symbols and numbers, and this science must include the first elements of human thought, and is suitable as a solid basis for studying any subject.¹

3-Curriculum rules when Descartes:

3-1-The rule of intuition:

It is the rule of clarity and content. This is amazing The rule is "I don't accept anything as true.", Unless I know for sure that it is so: Meaning that I carefully avoid rashness and being ahead of others. Judgment before consideration, and AI only include in my judgments what is clearly and distinctly before my mind. ,So I have no room to question it."²This rule is called the rule of intuition, intuition, or certainty. It is the first step to gaining knowledge, whether in the field of philosophy (metaphysics) or in all the sciences.

"It is the most important and dangerous rule, and Descartes mentioned and emphasized it in "The article on The method" and "Meditations" and also in "Principles of Philosophy" "Which indicates the greatness of its position in his approach, and it confirms that when a person searches for the truth in any subject, he must free himself from every authority except the authority of reason. Eaton sees...EATON WRIGHT This rule states: We must not accept ideas except those that are clear. Clear It is issued from rational intuition and the light of innate reason, and it also requires us, at the same time, to get rid of previous opinions, and to make every effort to avoid bias and haste in issuing judgments."³

He sees Descartes starting Searches One of the simple and easy things where He is not tired during Find the thing you need to start with because It was known before that it is the simplest and easiest things to know, However, he does not stop in his research at these simple, clear, distinct, evident and self-evident things. Rather, he considers them a starting point that helps him to progress and ascend more and more in knowledge, and to build other truths whose basis and foundation is self-evident knowledge. If this basis is sound, then the results that he arrives at

¹Bourhala Naima, The Mathematical Method in the Philosophy of René Descartes, p. 1096.

²Descartes, Discourse on the Method, p. 131.

³Ghadban Sayed Ali, Descartes and the Rational Method, p. 76.

later are sound. Just as the mind should not neglect anything even if it seems simple and unimportant to it, because from these simple matters we ascend to build knowledge. Therefore, we should direct all our intellectual powers to things that are less important than others and are easier. We must stop at it for a long time until We get used to a clear, distinct vision..¹

And it can Analysis of this rule to the following:²

1- It calls for the independence of the mind, away from any authority that could impose its judgments on it in a way that is... Pre-ordered.

2- The mind is guided to the truth intuitively, that is, by rational intuition or the seeds of the innate and natural mind. Just as sight was created to see things, so the mind was created to see the truth directly.

3- Certainty is the standard of truth, and it is the opposite of doubt. Certain knowledge is what we call science. As for probable knowledge, we cannot call it science, because it can be doubted. This is the absolute certainty that he wants. Descartes' certainty, which is beyond doubt, is comparable to the certainty of mathematics; it is also the basic requirement of reason in the search for truth.

4It is not enough to be certain of an idea that we can intuitively grasp; rather, this idea must be clear and distinct. The clarity that Descartes means is the clarity of the idea's content, such that it is not vague or ambiguous.

Likewise, distinct content pertains to a single idea, not two ideas at once, and ambiguity in meaning and concept contradicts the distinction Descartes sought in ideas. We also say that clarity and distinctness are only apparent to the conscious, attentive mind.

5- You must avoid rushing to judgment, because that will inevitably lead us into error. Whatever the purpose Kindness in the search for truth, haste will distance us from this goal.

3-2-Analysis base:

¹Bourhala Naima, The Mathematical Method in the Philosophy of René Descartes, p. 1097.

²Ghadban Sayed Ali, Descartes and the Rational Method, p. 77.

Descartes says: It must To divide each of the dilemmas I will examine into as many parts as possible. According to the amount What needs to be resolved in the best possible way"¹

"Represents The method All of them in to organize things that We want that He checks it thought To discover some facts And arrange it. And we Followed by it accurately if We returned Issues complex mysterious As a matter of fact gradual to Issues simpler Including, then if We set off from intuition The simplest, We We strive to Ascend, according to same Gradual to knowledge all Issues The other².

And with it He decided Descartes Obligation to divide The problem that We offer To search for it what We could that, And the goal Analysis when Descartes to reply The complex to Simple, And the complex to easy, until It begins mind His thinking in The dilemma that He studies it reassured to clarity The idea that It begins With it until no makes mistakes In it, And so Safe Slip since beginning His thinking, And he is realizes this Simple Intuitively that realizes Ideas Simple And the facts fixed, And it will end To him this to that makes Science Reasonably previously on Science By the senses, Because ideas Explain from things and principles Explain from plenty Types, And here preceded Metaphysics in His doctrine science nature.³

3-3-Mounting base:

Descartes says about it: "that prisoner My thoughts Systematically, Starting In the simplest way Things The easiest one knowledge in order to I graduate a little a little until pedigreed to knowledge Most of them In order, but rather and that impose Arranged between Things that no precedes Some of them Some The other naturally".⁴

And It was said that This is amazing The base basis Curriculum Cartesian And show it trace when Application, because Gradual that He pointed out To him he

¹Descartes, Discourse on the Method, p. 131.

²Descartes, Rules for the Direction of the Mind, p. 47.

³Kamel Muhammad Muhammad Awida, Descartes, Pioneer of Philosophy in the Modern Age, 1st ed., Beirut, Lebanon: Dar Al-Kotob Al-Ilmiyyah, 1993, p. 23.

⁴Descartes, Discourse on the Method, pp. 131-132.

that He distinguishes Equations Sports that no makes mistakes Its people in Solve it, Meaning this that Descartes may dish With this The base Curriculum athlete on all the sciences, Descartes same He declares that the world that no It is necessary This is amazing The base when Displays To search what, Similar man Ascend home from Below to above Boothbay one, neglected Peace that It was held For this The goal.¹

However, despite the importance of this rule, it cannot precede the two previous rules because, from a methodological standpoint, it comes after them. The composition is between the self-evident things that are subject to direct perception. And among the matters that we have analyzed, divided, and segmented to the maximum possible extent, that is, until they become simple and easy, and even if the mind is performing various operations at the same time, and there were some matters that were equal in order, but it is necessary to assume the precedence of some over others.

This rule was the result of Descartes being influenced by mathematical precision and the method followed in it. This is what made him try to apply it even to the method of philosophy, considering it comprehensive of all sciences. And since Descartes was keen to apply the method of mathematics in the field of philosophy, it is not surprising then that his thinking began from the first simple truth and then progressed until he reached the complex truths..²

3-4-Statistical base(Complete induction):

Descartes says: I always work from complete statistics and comprehensive reviews that make me confident that I have not overlooked anything."³

It is called This is amazing The base By base Statistics Enumeration induction Complete or Investigation, It is meant With it trust in We did not We neglect any part from The problem And he points out here Descartes to illnesses Memory, and that man By nature injured with diseases Oversight And the mistake And forgetfulness. It is meant With it also unless We stay something in memory not

¹Kamel Muhammad Muhammad Awida, Descartes, Pioneer of Philosophy in the Modern Age, p. 24.

²Bourhala Naima, The Mathematical Method in the Philosophy of René Descartes, p. 1099.

³Descartes, Discourse on the Method, p. 132.

Ideas conjecture So that rebound all component basic to an idea Intuitive, then Compose after that that Elements The analyst Formula New You do in Total on Clarity And excellence, Please on consistency Logical.¹

any that it requires on researcher that Passing by With movement intellectual Connected on all what Call On topic His research, And review Connections that You do between Episodes series Inferences, And he is in This is amazing The base He is Agree with It will be owner Curriculum Experimental. The reality that phenomenon Patience And not haste She was Feature The era that Long live In it both of them, And in it to reply on loss Curricula that I made it up in Middle Ages.

4-Mathematical approach and building Metaphysics:

Thanks to his mathematical method and the system that distinguished him, Descartes was able to build knowledge and establish metaphysical subjects on a solid system and foundation. He applied this method to studies of abstract intellectual issues and was able to arrive at proof of metaphysical subjects that had previously been subject to doubt. These are the certain principles upon which his metaphysical philosophy is based. They airproofed existence of the knowing self, and proof The existence of God and proof The existence of the world. The first certainty that the application of the mathematical method to the subjects of philosophy led to was the access To the truth of the existence of the thinking self that is beyond doubt, I think therefore I exist, and it is the first axiom that was discovered to establish thought on a metaphysical ontological foundation with certain doubt. This certainty that Descartes reached stemmed from deep contemplation, where the truth of thinking became clear and distinct to him, as he conceived of the human personality as an immaterial essence, and the mind as residing in a mechanical system, which is the body. Based on this certainty, he was able to build philosophy and science.²

Therefore, to reject Descartes For identification Aristotle For humans, Being animal Speaker, because man in look, no It is done I think And his body, But It is

¹Ibrahim Mustafa Ibrahim, Modern Philosophy from Descartes to Hume, p. 84.

²Bourhala Naima, The Mathematical Method in the Philosophy of René Descartes, p. 1100.

done I think only. He says his definition has changed. For humans? Do I say that it animal sane? both...in We are not from all what We thought it was Before but exactly something He thinks. So if It was cut off on thinking, It was cut off maybe on Existence interruption Pure. Thinking is existence. It is through it that the definition and essence of man are established.

here Show for us importance cogito Cartesian, Being Teach us thinking And leads us to Discovery, And prevents us from Resting to Rulings Pre-order And the results Ready And urges us on non haste And haste in Release Judgments, And embraces us on Accept only what he Self-evident And it is clear, And refused all what It seems mysterious And vague With this Meaning. Doubt, permission he Methodology My analysis, Suitable thinking By training him on that He walks step in discovery facts And its construction. Thus, He is It constitutes revolution on Curriculum old that It is enough With width Results Ready, Without that We know Sequence logical that led to that Results.¹

The concept ego did not It is not Present before century Seventh ten, so He was Rejected Religiously And institutionally, He was Launches only on god And the institution Church that It is considered itself successor God in His land And all from Dare on epithet same By myself consider rogue, because before The era Hadith, He was the society It consists of from two layers legislators And a herd where He gets up legislators In my job thinking And issue and orders, And it is sufficient The herd By obedience And implementation. And all from to think accuses Foolishly, And it is done Throwing To him in hospital diseases mentality, or accuses In disbelief, He leads to gallows. But Thanks Updates Scientific that I went out on Surface imposed concept self same Suppose, And make sure with Descartes that The mind is fairer things portion between the people, any capital Subscriber between everyone It broke that Hierarchy social, And it became everyone Equal no difference Between them unless in road use mind.

¹Muhammad Al-Radhi, Descartes' New Metaphysics, Believers Without Borders website, published on October 4, 2019, viewed on October 11, 2025 at 6:00 PM.

but, if It was completed proof presence self In thought: I think permission I existing, So what? he type Existence that Enjoy To him ego To the limits now? Do he presence material or presence mental?.¹

As for the second certainty he reached, it was the existence of God. He started from the idea of the imperfection present in man in order to point to the "perfect" who deposited this idea in his mind, which is God. This idea is fundamental to Descartes' philosophy, and thus his entire system is based on propositions that affirm the existence of his mind and the existence of God., so God is the guarantor of knowledge and what we reach through reason. These ideas, which Descartes arrived at, were able to establish metaphysics. Cartesian metaphysics, as the science of the first principles of deductive knowledge, was primarily concerned with proving the existence and nature of the knowing self and God.²

did not trying Descartes that Prove on presence God on road the world, but rather claimed that knowledge God she that We have reached to Perception the world Natural, He is did not trying that Used the earth To go up to the sky, but rather use the sky To go down to the earth, And he is did not He is martyred balcony on presence His Creator, but rather quote By the Creator on presence The creature.

4-1- Evidence Dukart on presence God:³

4-1-1- Evidence the first:

He sees Descartes that I object minus, that Because I doubt And doubt appearance from Manifestations deficiency gesticulate He was for me that I know that I minus, unless if She was I have an idea on Perfection The absolute no Reasonable that Be My idea on Perfection The absolute may It was formed in mental a result Zoom in Types Perfections Incomplete because Perfection The imperfect whatever Expanded He is limited. So This is it The idea did not puts it in myself unless existing complete no infinite; this existing Infinite he God.

4-1-2- Evidence the second:

¹same.

²Bourhala Naima, The Mathematical Method in the Philosophy of René Descartes, p. 1100.

³Kamel Muhammad Muhammad Awida, Descartes, Pioneer of Philosophy in the Modern Age, pp. 61-62.

And if I was Present incomplete And in mental an idea on existing Complete So what? She Illness My existence So? No I can that I imagine I am I created myself By myself , Otherwise I gave it to her all Types Perfection And acquitted her from all loss , And did not Creates me like that machine Incomplete, otherwise It would have been The most worthy To him that Grants same Perfection, So My creator complete And he is Illness My existence.

4-1-3- Evidence the third:

if He was God he The being Complete, And it was Existence Kamal, God permission existing, Descartes He sees that What is it? God or an idea The being Complete Requires necessarily Existence External. Proof on presence God when Descartes very A means in that one. Very because Doctrine Correct no It is achieved Without it, A means Because not There certainty unless what brown on presence God.

From the first and second certainty, he arrived at proving the existence of the external world, which is like the third certainty, since God is perfect, it is not among the attributes of perfection that He abandons us. Therefore, God is the guarantor of the existence of the external world. This feeling of the existence of the external world is self-evident, clear, distinct, and everything that is self-evident, clear, distinct, and without doubt is spread in the soul from God..

5- Conclusion:

Finally, we can conclude that Descartes' philosophy She was Philosophy different Philosophies and ideas that characterized his era, alive If he could Mathematics, which represented the pinnacle of precision and certainty in science, was extended to the field of philosophy. Thus, the mathematical method was unified in its intellectual and formal form in the subjects of philosophy and nature, with the aim of bringing philosophy to new issues characterized by mathematical certainty, and elevating it to its perfection and maturity. attic So Thanks to the mathematical method, the mind is organized and directed towards achieving the truths. And the great metaphysical certainties. This approach athlete New that Specify Its features Descartes, Based on principles and rules Inspired Basically

from methodology athletes in solution And processing problems Topics mathematics. And the basis this Curriculum he mind that Represents a point Pivot To build Knowledge, Descartes may He returned For the mind His position from during Grant him freedom in cash And refused various Opinions prevailing And in smashing heritage Cultural in His era.And Hassan to exploit power Instinctive existing when all the people from during Hassan Direct it, as maybe The saying that Curriculum Cartesian It is considered as a The pivot Theoretical that I relied on attic Modernity Western in building Her project Philosophical, as He appears in Affected philosophers Hadith scholars Necessity appeal a question Curriculum in research Topics Philosophy Among the neo-Cartesians.

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