The role Knowledge by presence in Sadra epistemology

Zabihollah Owhadi
Ferdowsi University of Mashhad, International Campus, Mashhad, Iran.
Science63@yahoo.com

Abstract: Knowledge by presence is one of the most discussed topics in the epistemology. Unlike the conceptual science, the philosophers hadn’t enough attention to the Knowledge by presence. In this article we’re going to answer to this question that, whether Knowledge by presence can be helpful for people to get the truth or not helpful. the man was always looking for an easier way to unlock the truth, although access to the Knowledge by presence is a difficult way and it seems that it has more hazards than conceptual science but the revelation knowledge in this science is clearly far from wrong and it makes easy to understanding the truth, only by removing the obstacles from your eyes, you can immediately access to this knowledge. As long as people are born based on the talent that God gave to them, have insights and beliefs about themselves and their surroundings, This awareness is in the areas of Knowledge by presence not conceptual science, because conceptual sciences are adventitious and may be associated with the error this sciences must be discovered over the time but at the moment of creation, God gives Knowledge by presence to every creature. In this article we are going to define the conceptual science and Knowledge by presence and then we examined their various types and prove authenticity of the Knowledge by presence.

Key word: conceptual science, Knowledge by presence, epistemology, sadra

Introduction:
One of the most important issues in the philosophy is Knowledge by presence.

At the most basic divisions of science; it has been divided into two parts, conceptual science and Knowledge by presence. Although there is a whole debate about conceptual science but there has been no detailed discussions on Knowledge by presence. According to the critical role of Knowledge by presence we have a quick look at this science.

Humans have always tried to achieve the most appropriate tools to get the truth and they constantly seek a way for access the properly knowledge. It should be noted that conceptual sciences have instrumental view at knowledge, and they are classified in acquired Sciences, it means that humans must obtain them from the outside world but Knowledge by presence classified as immediacy sciences it means that humans at the same time see the truth. One of the interesting features of this science is that, they pointed to the fact that can be accessed immediately. If you’ll look at this issue rationally and without prejudice then you notice that desire for truth in Knowledge by presence is more evident and there is no possibility of error in it, due to this fact we can discover the originality of this science.

Definition of conceptual science
Conceptual science is the science, where in the reality of science is different from the known fact, as our knowledge of the earth, the sky, the trees and other people. we have knowledge than objects, this means that each object have their own image and according to imagine we understand the facts, so here the reality of science is a picture in our minds and the fact is inherent known which independently of us exists in the outside world. For example, we have a picture of friend’s face in our minds that it’s a figure not the reality of face.

Knowledge by presence
Knowledge by presence is the science, wherein the reality of science is similar to the known fact. In this science perceived object be understood without subjective image mediation. For example, when we decide or desire to do something or when we are sad or happy, the reality of will, decision and pleasure are known for us and immediately we understand that special circumstances.

When holy imam says: There is no secret for us, this means that our performance is supplied for imam and we have always been in their presence, it should be noted that, we may be unaware of this issue.

In Knowledge by presence, man must look carefully at the issues, now they find the entire data in front of themselves. Many things and facts aren’t evident for human beings, because we have created many cover for ourselves, which impedes to see inner truth of things.

Another fundamental difference between conceptual science and Knowledge by presence is
that: in Knowledge by presence for awareness and knowledge achieved a special authority or a private mode doesn’t interfere but based on known facts, facts are known. Knowledge by presence a specific power from different branches of ego that it work is illustration, intervening and provides a form that obtained awareness and knowledge.

It should be noted that the Knowledge’s by presence aren’t related to a specific device of various ego devices but conceptual sciences are related to a device which read as mind or perceptual apparatus. We intend to provide an explanation about this power and its features.

Always sages and other scholars had different opinion on this topic that, from humans birth time, their spirit in connection with the affairs will be with what and how quality of performance.

Some scholars believe that human soul at the time of creation does not understand anything through conceptual science and it hadn’t any idea on mind and completely unaware about their situations and their own, virtually at birth time it hadn’t mind, because the world of mind is the universe of objects and because at first it hadn’t any phantasm so it hadn’t mind, gradually the imagery provide image of object and ego states and it form the mind.

Although human soul at the time of creation does not understand anything through conceptual science and it hadn’t mind at the beginning, Knowledge by presence will help and by this science, the objects in order to the size and their talent finds Knowledge by presence about themselves, because the conceptual science basis is the imagination activity and imagination formation, and Knowledge by presence basis is the existence of single object from article. The child’s has no idea of their own states in fact they has no idea of anything but at the same time they understanding the fact such as hunger, pleasure, grief and will, therefore when they are so hungry they have food demand.

Many scientists hadn’t sufficient evaluation and research in the field of Knowledge by presence, they belief that everyone knowledge of himself and his ego states is a part of Knowledge by presence.

Everyone's knowledge of himself and of his ego states has two distinct forms: The primary knowledge, that everyone has received since his creation, in this form his ego conditions not separate from himself and he understands all items without the mediation of perceived image, the other form include ideas that gradually developed. The child’s understands much fact such as hunger, pleasure, grief and will, it should be noted that, these feelings are not hidden for them, because their mind sets still weak, therefore they have no idea of these basic material, it means that by ordinary and normal

Intuitive knowledge, introduction of conceptual science

In some cases we can expressed that intuitive knowledge can be as an introduction of conceptual science. If people have no intuitive knowledge they cannot reach to the conceptual science. Because intuitive knowledge allowed us to take advantage of the conceptual science. Actually the intuitive knowledge is considered as the engine of conceptual science. In connection with the conceptual science it should be noted that, everything that man does not know is the mental and conceptual science to the other things that obtained through cognitive tools such as the eyes and ears and goes to the heart and mind, in there it recognize, approved and comes in the form of Science. This is the science that will change at the end of life and faced with declining, but intuitive knowledge never has such attributes and never goes away. The science that man’s teaches at school, located in the conceptual science division that the students learns from their teacher through the concepts, words and phrases, this knowledge base is very weak and this is why it is considered as a scientific identity crisis in a period and makes educated person that reject their learning.

Certainty

Certainly refers to the intuitive knowledge, in the Quran, death is defined as the certainty because at the death time go away all of the veils from our eyes, ears and our heart, the veils that prevent us from understanding, seeing and hearing. Actually certainly is an intuition that for some people happens in this world and for a number of people occur after deaths.

Characteristics of Knowledge by presence

1-There are no intermediaries in the Knowledge by presence. In fact, nature has no place in the Knowledge by presence and any provisions of nature cannot log in this Science. Because Knowledge by presence is not a general or slight science. It should be noted that only the concepts can be divided into two components like general or slight.

2- The error having no place in the Knowledge by presence. Because in the Knowledge by presence truth of known revealed to us, in contrast Knowledge
by presence are fallible. It should be noted that Knowledge by presence regardless of their interpretation are a kind of conceptual science that aren’t fallible.

3- Knowledge by presence is unspeakable and non-transferable to the others. Knowledge by presence unlike the conceptual sciences aren’t public. However, the Knowledge by presence can be transmitted to the others, if it converted to the conceptual science but in this case, the conceptual science transferred not Knowledge by presence. The nature of Knowledge by presence likes personal and non-transferable to the others doesn’t contradict with the general aspects of this science.

4- Achieve the truth will be possible through Knowledge by presence.

5- States of conscience at the first is usually transient, but it does not take much time. If by doing a large range of exercises the man took intuitive knowledge this state will not last long and shortly the man returned to normal condition and finds himself that surrounded by the conceptual science. It should be noted that this converse is not true for all people.

6-Independence of subjective judgments: Intermediaries such as Suggests, doubt, faith, imagination, affirmations, mind, thinking, defining, understanding and reasoning that are used in conceptual science have no applications in Knowledge by presence, As a result, the laws of conceptual science has no place in it. (3) Knowledge by presence is meta-logic and has its own logic.

7-Unity of science and the nature of the thinker:
In the Knowledge by presence, science is the nature of thinker; As a result they have unity with each other and are not contrasted. (1)

8-Independence of cognition: in conceptual science, especial perception likes external senses, internal senses or intellect are placed as intermediaries between the soul and known and soul by assisted of this power would achieve to the image or concept of known. As a result conceptual science needs to the special device that called the mind whereas Knowledge by presence does not need to the special devices such as mind.(2)

9-Recognition of existence not quiddity: known in Knowledge by presence is availability of objects not their nature this topic is in contrast with conceptual science. (1). Knowledge by presence than an object does not require that we have knowledge about the nature of the object.

10-The doubts: In the Knowledge by presence, there are varying degrees of skepticism
Mulla Sadra view on referrals the conceptual science to the other sciences:

Presence, attainment and discovery are the truth of Science(3). Conceptual science isn’t a real science, but it’s a credit science.

The types of Knowledge by presence:
Philosophers have considered some case for the Knowledge by presence that some of these cases are clear and some of them are provable by reasoning.

1- The science of incorporeal creatures about their nature which is divided into three types: A-Knowledge of the soul about itself B-Knowledge of the obligatory about itself C- Knowledge of the other singles about themselves

2-Soul knowledge about mental form:
Human knowledge about the outside world is possible through mental form but human knowledge about this form cannot be possible from the other case, so the human knowledge about the outside world is possible through conceptual science and human knowledge about mental form is immediately.

3-Soul knowledge about own actions:
Soul has the actions such as will and decree. Soul has Knowledge by presence about own actions, because cause knowledge about the effect is Knowledge by presence and because these things are effect and cause of soul, so the knowledge of soul about them is Knowledge by presence.

4-Soul knowledge about own forces:
For Soul Including plant, human and animal soul Scientists have considered some forces, these powers are generally divided into two categories include perceptual and excitatory that each of them have their own actions and works.

5-Cause knowledge about the Effect:
Under this type of Knowledge by presence human can understand the rights, as a result, theology found Philosophical justification.

6- Effect knowledge about the Cause:
This type of Knowledge by presence just like the next type has been developed based on Supreme wisdom.

7- Soul knowledge about own situation:
Soul has modes such as pleasure, pain, sadness and happiness and has deep understanding about these matters.

Which Science has more originality? Conceptual science or Knowledge by presence?
In this context, there are two views: The first view believed that Knowledge by presence has originality
First exposition: Shaykh al-Ishraq believes that Sensory science is equal to the presence (4).
In sensory science he believes that Knowledge by presence are in superiority and denied conceptual science in the case of sensory science.
Second exposition: this exposition is attributed to the alameh Tabatabai, he believes that sciences are conceptual and credit. (5)

He believes that divided the sciences into two categories like conceptual and presence isn’t a scientific work, he considered this work as a traditional function; he binds the end and the destination science to the Knowledge by presence.

He believes that all humanities are solved in the Knowledge by presence, because scientific forms are abstract and immaterial. It can be argued that:

Firstly, there is no power and no variation in these scientific forms and because changes are the properties of the material so scientific forms aren’t the matter type.

Secondly, Material has properties, such as location, time and divisibility but because science is science have none of these properties, so science is not materially.

The Second view believed that conceptual science has originality:

Some contemporary philosophers believe that there isn’t an experience that should not be interpreted and human gain to all intents, beliefs and descriptions in the shadow of conceptual science. Consequently, intuition and mystical experience are inaccessible or do not exist.

Reference

5. Tabatabai, M, 1993, Nahayat Alhekmah, Qom, Iran, Page 239.

9/27/2013