

THE RELATIONSHIP OF YIN YANG TO THE THREE LAWS OF DIALECTICS



<https://doi.org/10.56238/arev6n4-485>

Submitted on: 11/31/2024

Publication date: 12/31/2024

Gustavo Araújo Batista¹.

ABSTRACT

This text consists of a theoretical research that deals with the relationship between the symbolism of Yin Yang and the three laws of dialectics, with the objective of demonstrating the correspondence between Taoist religious symbolic thought and Western philosophical conceptual thought.

Keywords: Dialectics. Laws. Yin Yang.

¹ University of Uberaba (UNIUBE)
Mário Palmério University Center (UNIFUCAMP)
E-mail: mrgugaster@gmail.com

INTRODUCTION

The Yin Yang (literally: dark-light; negative-positive) is certainly one of the most famous symbols of Eastern philosophy in general and, particularly, of Chinese philosophy. In short, it represents the duality of reality, whose polarities are not only opposed, but interpenetrate, complementing each other, each pole having something of its opposite. In this way, the thought expressed by such a symbol establishes that everything has its pair, whether in the macrocosmic or in the microcosmic sphere; Such pairs, in turn, although they may be distinct from each other, are interconnected, so that they can only be understood through their interrelation. This is the interpretation that has traditionally been given to Yin Yang.

In Western philosophy, the thought expressed by the symbolism of Yin Yang is also present. Dualism, opposition and complementation between things were already discussions undertaken by the first Greek philosophers. Although the approximation between the West and the East has already been verified on this point, it is perceived, on the other hand, that the symbolism of the Yin Yang has not yet been abundantly explored with regard to its relationship with the three laws of dialectics, which is why this essay intends to do so, not exhaustively, but by way of proposing future and more advanced considerations, which, perhaps, can be initiated.

THE THREE LAWS OF DIALECTICS

Dialectics has been one of the first words that were incorporated into philosophical jargon, becoming part of it since Antiquity. Although it has been defined in different ways throughout the trajectory of Western thought, there are at least three topics through which it is possible to perceive the conceptual convergence presented by dialectics; such topics would be its laws, namely:

- First. The law of quantity and quality – means that quantity and quality are two inversely proportional quantities, as well as establishing that the quantitative increase of something causes transformation in it at the qualitative level, when, for example, water, in a solid state, when its temperature is increased, goes into fusion, passing to the liquid state and from this to the gaseous state, by evaporation, the process being reversible by condensation and solidification. When observing the contours of the two sides of the Yin Yang, such inverse proportionality is verified in them; that is: the wider the space occupied by one of the colors, the narrower the

space of the other color and vice versa, with the spaces occupied by both being equally divided;

- Second. The law of the interpenetration of opposites – means that nothing is in a pure state; everything has something of its opposite; This demonstrates the becoming or the becoming-to-be to which reality is submissive. Thus, what is new is moving towards becoming old; what is alive is heading towards death; the day is followed by the night and the night by the former; this is also observed in the contours of the two polarities of Yin Yang; His drawings express the movement according to which everything is directed to its opposite pole. Moreover, the points that each of the two sides has in its opposite color express that everything intrinsically carries with it something that is opposite to it, such as the masculine that has something feminine and vice versa;
- Third. The law of negation of negation or law of synthesis – means that reality is both the process and the product of three successive phases, namely: the thesis (affirmation, or first moment); the antithesis (negation, or second moment); synthesis (negation of the negation, or third moment, which both preserves and surpasses the thesis and antithesis). For the production of a certain thing, at least two opposite poles are needed; what is produced is the synthesis that maintains and transcends the opposites that originated it; This is already verifiable, for example, in the composition of the atom, the structural unit of matter, for which at least one proton (positive atomic particle) and one electron (negative atomic particle) are required; protons and electrons have opposite charges; they are the thesis and the antithesis; The atom, in turn constituted, is the synthesis, something that simultaneously conserves and surpasses both the proton and the electron. Such is the overall vision provided by the Yin Yang: the partially revealed oppositions are totally enclosed by the circle that delimits it; The circumference, within which are duality, opposition, interpenetration and complementation, synthesizes the specificities of the symbol by constituting itself as a harmonic whole, like music, made of sound and silence.

CONCLUSION

The inferences drawn from the relations between the symbolism of Yin Yang and the three laws of dialectics constitute the core of this essay, which, despite its limitations, is expected to become a reason for more advanced considerations on this theme, whose

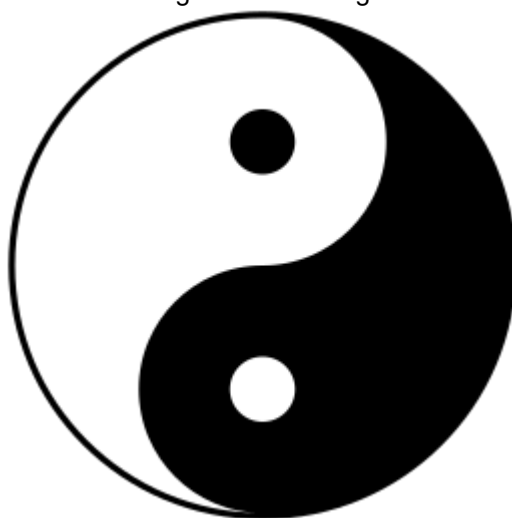
conceptual and symbolic richness remains abundant and inexhaustible for the seeker who aims to broaden and deepen his knowledge, from the legacy inherited from civilizations whose undying wisdom is always available to those who intend to nourish themselves from it.

REFERENCES

1. Aranha, M. L. de A., & Martins, M. H. P. (1997). *Filosofando: Introdução à filosofia*. São Paulo: Moderna.
2. Lurker, M. (Org.). (2003). *Dicionário de simbologia*. São Paulo: Martins Fontes.

ATTACHMENT

Figure 1. Yin Yang



Source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yin_and_yang. Accessed: 12/19/2024.