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Dialectic and Formal Logic

Masao Matsumoto

Logic is the structure not of subjective consciousness, but of objective being. It was the Platonists who first separated logic from metaphysics and made it what is called formal logic. As the metaphysical structure of being determines logic, we must begin from the logic of substance composed of matter and form, which is subject-matter of physics and the starting-point of metaphysics.

All beings composed of matter and form change substantially and the structure of this substantial change gives rise to dialectical logic. On the contrary, the essence of intellectual substance, that is, pure form, never changes; and here we find the field of formal logic. Although the structure of objective being is dialectical, the intellect which deals with this dialectic of being, is itself non-dialectical and formal-logical; and though this dialectic includes self-contradiction, it must be dealt with in a non-contradictory manner.