



PRIMARY RESEARCH

A study of the position of eastern philosophy in the emergence and formation of Greek philosophy

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Received: 30 June 2024**Accepted:** 23 September 2024**Published:** 30 December 2024**Abstract**

Greek philosophy, as one of the most important intellectual heritages of mankind, has always been of interest to researchers. However, the question that arises is whether this philosophy was merely the product of the genius of the Greeks or was it influenced by Eastern civilizations. Historical evidence shows that the cultural, commercial, and intellectual interactions between the Greeks and Eastern civilizations have paved the way for the transfer of knowledge and thought from the East to Greece. The research method of this article has been done in the form of a library and based on documentary studies. In this method, reliable sources, including historical, philosophical books, and scientific articles related to Eastern and Greek philosophy, have been examined. Works of Greek Philosophers Such as Thales, Heraclitus, and Plato, texts related to the civilizations of Iran, Egypt, and Babylon have also been analyzed. In addition, the works of ancient historians such as Herodotus and contemporary studies on the cultural interactions between the East and Greece have been used. The purpose of this method is to collect and analyze the available data to explain the influence of Eastern philosophy on the formation of Greek philosophy. Concepts such as cosmic order, divine wisdom, and the sanctity of natural elements that are found in Persian, Egyptian, and Babylonian philosophy have been prominent and have been reflected in the works of philosophers such as Thales, Heraclitus, Pythagoras, and Plato. At the same time, the Greeks, with their rational approach, redefined these concepts and created an independent philosophical system. It is considered a turning point in the history of human thought.

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INTRODUCTION

Greek philosophy, as one of the most prominent and influential human intellectual heritages, has always been of interest to researchers. This philosophy, which began in ancient Greece, formed the basis of many Western schools of thought and science.

Has it been influenced by other civilizations and cultures, especially Eastern civilizations? In this article, the position of Eastern philosophy, especially Iran, Egypt, and Babylon, in the emergence and formation of Greek philosophy is examined, and the role of these civilizations in transmitting knowledge and thought to the Greeks is analyzed (Kingsley, 1995).

Historical And Geographical Context

Ancient Greece was in a geographical location that made it a meeting point between the civilizations of the East and the West. The cities of Ionia, located on the western coast of Asia Minor (present-day Turkey), were the birthplace of the first Greek philosophers such as Thales, Anaximander, and Anaximenes. This region was influenced by Eastern cultures and ideas due to its proximity to the Persian Empire and its proximity to the civilizations of Babylon and Egypt. Trade Relations, Wars, and migrations paved the way for the transfer of knowledge and ideas from the East to Greece (Burnet, 1908).

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The Role Of Eastern Civilizations In The Formation Of Greek Philosophy

Eastern civilizations, including Persia, Babylonia, and Egypt, have long had advanced intellectual and philosophical systems, many of which were transmitted to Greece through cultural and commercial interactions (West, 1997). The role of these civilizations is discussed below:

Iran

Ancient Iran, especially in the Achaemenid period, had a rich system of thought based on Zoroastrian teachings. Concepts such as the duality of good and evil, cosmic order (Ashe), and divine wisdom (Bahman) had a special place in the Iranian world view. Many researchers believe that these concepts influenced Greek philosophy, especially the thoughts of philosophers such as Heraclitus and Plato. For example, Heraclitus, who introduces fire as the main element of the universe, may have been influenced by Zoroastrianism and the sanctity of fire in this religion.

Plato, in his theory of parables, also refers to a kind of divine order and immortality that has similarities with Zoroastrian teachings.

Egypt

The ancient Egyptian civilization also had a profound impact on Greek philosophy with its advanced knowledge of mathematics, geometry, and astronomy. Many Greek philosophers, including Pythagoras, traveled to Egypt to study science. Pythagoras, who is known as the founder of the Pythagorean school, adapted concepts such as proportion, harmony, and number from Egyptian teachings.

Babylon

The Babylonian civilization had a significant impact on the Greeks with its scientific and philosophical achievements in the fields of astronomy, mathematics, and mythology. The Babylonians were the founders of astronomy by providing accurate calendars and predicting the movements of celestial bodies. This knowledge was transmitted to Greece through Ionia and was reflected in the natural philosophy of philosophers such as Thales and Anaximenes.

Greek Philosophers And Influence From The East

To better understand the influence of Eastern philosophy on the Greeks, it is necessary to examine the works and thoughts of some of the prominent Greek philosophers:

Thales

Thales, as the first Greek philosopher, believed that water was the primary and fundamental element of the universe.

This idea is very similar to the Zoroastrian teachings on the sanctity of water. Also, Thales lived in the city of Miletus, which was the meeting point of Eastern and Western cultures, and probably became acquainted with these ideas through interactions with Persian and Babylonian clergy.

Heraclitus

Heraclitus, the philosopher who considered fire to be the main element of the universe, was probably influenced by Zoroastrianism. He also refers to the idea of "Logos" (cosmic order and reason), which has similarities with the concept of "Ashe" in Iranian thought.

Plato

In his theory of parables, Plato refers to an idea of order and perfection that can be compared with Zoroastrian teachings about cosmic order and divine wisdom. Some researchers believe that Plato became acquainted with Iranian thoughts through the works of philosophers before him.

Pythagoras

Pythagoras, who is known as one of the most important pre-Socratic philosophers, adapted many of his concepts from Egypt and Babylonia. He points to the influence of numbers and harmony in the world, which is rooted in Egyptian and Babylonian knowledge.

Historical Evidence and Documentation

Many historians and scholars believe that Greek philosophy was directly or indirectly influenced by Eastern civilizations (West, 1997). Some of this evidence includes:

Trade and cultural connections

The Greeks became acquainted with the knowledge and ideas of Eastern civilizations through trade with them.

Greek philosophers' journey to the east

Many Greek philosophers, including Pythagoras, traveled to Egypt and Babylon to study science.

Writings of Greek historians

Historians such as Herodotus have pointed to the influence of Eastern cultures on Greece.

Critique & Analysis

Although there is a lot of evidence of the influence of Eastern philosophy on the Greeks, some scholars believe that Greek philosophy, despite being influenced by the East, has unique characteristics that distinguish it from other systems of thought. For example, the Greeks sought a rational and logical explanation of the world rather than emphasizing

ing religious and mythological aspects. This characteristic made Greek philosophy a It has transformed an independent system of thought.

Greek philosophy, as one of the most prominent human achievements, was undoubtedly influenced by Eastern civilizations, especially Persia, Egypt, and Babylonia. Concepts such as cosmic order, divine wisdom, and the sanctity of natural elements are among the ideas that were transmitted from the East to Greece and were reflected in the thought of Greek philosophers. However, the Greeks, with their rational and logical approach, redefined these concepts and created a unique philosophical system whose influence has remained to this day. The study of these cultural and philosophical interactions shows the importance of the relationship between civilizations in shaping the history of human thought (Zhud, 2012; Rossetti, 2022).

Problem Statement

Greek philosophy, as one of the most important systems of thought in human history, has had a profound impact on the development of sciences, arts, and philosophical thoughts in Western civilization. However, the study of the roots of this philosophy shows that ancient Greece, due to its geographical location and cultural interactions with Eastern civilizations, was influenced by the philosophical thoughts and teachings of the East. Civilizations such as Iran, Egypt, and Babylon were advanced systems of thought that were transmitted to Greece through trade connections, migrations, and wars. Concepts such as cosmic order, divine wisdom, and the fundamental elements of nature that were prominent in Eastern philosophy are reflected in the works of Greek philosophers such as Thales, Heraclitus, and Pythagoras. Despite this evidence, the extent and manner of influence of Greek philosophy from the East is still a matter of debate. This article tries to clarify the position of Eastern philosophy in the emergence and formation of Greek philosophy by examining historical and philosophical evidence and answering the question of how Eastern ideas have been influential in the intellectual system of the Greeks (De Sélincourt & Herodotus, 2003).

FOUNDATIONS AND BACKGROUND OF THE RESEARCH

In order to examine the position of Eastern philosophy in the emergence and form of Greek philosophy, it is necessary to consider the theoretical and historical foundations of the research in a precise and comprehensive manner. These foundations serve as a framework for analyzing and interpreting the mutual effects between Eastern and Greek civilizations. In this section, the foundations of the research

are discussed in three main axes, including the theoretical foundations of Eastern and Greek philosophy, the historical background of cultural and intellectual interactions, and the analytical framework of the research (Lloyd, 2012; Ehteshami & ur Rahman, 2023).

Theoretical Foundations of Oriental and Greek Philosophy

Both Eastern and Greek philosophy, as advanced systems of thought, sought answers to fundamental questions about existence, man, and the world. However, there are differences and similarities in the encounters and concepts of these two fields:

Eastern philosophy

Eastern philosophy, especially in the civilizations of Iran, Egypt, and Babylonia, emphasized concepts such as cosmic order, the sanctity of natural elements, and the relationship between man and divine forces. Zoroastrian teachings in Iran, such as the duality of good and evil and divine order (Ashe), as well as astronomical and mythological knowledge in Babylon, are important intellectual foundations for civilizations. They were oriental. In Egypt, concepts such as the immortality of the soul and cosmic harmony were also prominent.

Greek philosophy

Greek philosophy sought to explain the world scientifically and philosophically with an emphasis on rationality and logic. Philosophers such as Thales, Pythagoras, and Heraclitus paid attention to the fundamental elements of nature, the order of the world, and the relationship between man and the cosmos. However, many concepts of Greek philosophy have similarities with Eastern teachings, which indicate the influence of this philosophy from the East.

Historical Background of Cultural and Intellectual Interactions

Ancient Greece, due to its geographical location, was located at the intersection of Eastern and Western civilizations. This geographical location and extensive cultural interactions paved the way for the transfer of Eastern knowledge and ideas to Greece. Some of the most important aspects of these interactions are:

Trade relations and migrations

Trade relations between Greece and Eastern civilizations, especially Persia, Egypt, and Babylonia, paved the way for the transfer of knowledge and thought. The migrations of the Greeks to the East, especially to Egypt and Babylonia,

and vice versa, led to mutual acquaintance of cultures.

Wars and conquests

The wars between Greece and the Eastern Empires, especially in the Achaemenid period, provided an opportunity for cultural exchange. These wars, in addition to military tensions, also led to the transfer of knowledge and philosophical concepts.

Greek philosophers' journey to the East

Many Greek philosophers, including Pythagoras, traveled to Egypt and Babylon to study science and philosophy. These travels had a profound impact on their thoughts and introduced Eastern concepts into Greek philosophy (Asheri, Lloyd, & Corcella, 2007; De Vogel, 2023; Steinworth, 2024).

Analytical Framework of the Research

In order to analyze the position of Eastern philosophy in the emergence and form of Greek philosophy, this research uses an analytical framework that includes three main stages:

comparative analysis of philosophical concepts

In this stage, the philosophical concepts of the East and Greece, such as cosmic order, divine wisdom, and the fundamental elements of nature, are compared. The similarities and differences between these concepts are examined, and the possible influences of the East on Greece are analyzed.

Historical evidence and ancient texts

Historical and philosophical texts, including the works of Herodotus, Theodore of Sicily, and Greek philosophers such as Plato and Aristotle, are examined as primary sources. These texts provide evidence of cultural interactions between the East and Greece.

Analysis of the works of greek philosophers

The works of Greek philosophers, especially pre-Socratic philosophers such as Thales, Heracles of Yatmos, and Pythagoras, should be studied from the perspective of being influenced by Eastern teachings. The concepts that are visible in these works should be compared and analyzed with the teachings of Eastern philosophy.

Eastern philosophy

Eastern philosophy refers to a set of intellectual and philosophical systems that have been formed in Eastern civilizations, including Iran, India, China, Japan, Egypt, Babylon, and other Asian and Middle Eastern civilizations. These philosophies, unlike Western philosophy, which often emphasizes logical analysis and rational reasoning, focus more on aspects spiritual, moral, mystical, and the har-

mony of man with the world and nature. Eastern philosophy in general deals with the fundamental issues of the universe, man, the world, and their relationship with the transcendent and divine beings (Dandamaev & Lukonin, 2004; Appleton, 2024).

The main characteristics of Eastern philosophy

Eastern philosophy has unique characteristics that distinguish it from Western philosophy. Some of these features are:

The holistic universe

Instead of focusing on the individual parts of the universe, Eastern philosophy looks at the whole of existence as a coherent unit. This holistic world considers Manto to be part of a larger whole with which he must be in harmony.

Emphasis on spirituality and mysticism

One of the most important features of Eastern philosophy is its emphasis on spirituality and mystical experience. Eastern philosophies often seek to understand truth through intuition, meditation, and communication with divine forces, in contrast to Western philosophy, which relies more on logical reasoning and analysis (De Sélincourt & Herodotus, 2003; Cantor, 2022).

The relationship between man and nature

In Eastern philosophy, nature and the world are considered part of the spiritual life of man. Harmony with nature and respect for it are fundamental principles of these philosophies. For example, in Chinese philosophy (Taoism), harmony with the Tao (the path of medicine) is a fundamental principle.

Paying attention to ethics and human behavior

Eastern philosophy often emphasizes ethics and human behavior, and offers ways to live a better life and be in harmony with others. The teachings of Buddha, Confucius, and Zoroaster are examples of this approach, which focuses on ethics and the right life.

Attention to transcendent forces

Eastern philosophy is usually concerned with transcendent and divine forces and seeks to understand man's relationship with these forces. These forces may be defined in the form of gods, cosmic order, or fundamental principles of the universe.

The Main Branches Of Eastern Philosophy

Eastern philosophy, due to its geographical breadth and cultural diversity, includes several branches, each of which has its own characteristics and teachings:

Iranian philosophy

Persian philosophy, especially in ancient times, has been based on the teachings of Zoroastrianism.

In this philosophy, concepts such as the duality of good and evil, cosmic order (Ashe), and the wisdom of God (Bahman) have a special place.

Indian philosophy

Indian philosophy includes a variety of systems of thought, such as Hinduism, Buddhism, and Jainism. These philosophies emphasize concepts such as karma (action and its result), dharma (moral duty), and moksha (liberation from the cycle of birth and death). Meditation, yoga, and spiritual experience are the main pillars of Indian philosophy (Kingsley, 1995).

Chinese philosophy

Chinese philosophy includes prominent schools such as Confucianism, Taoism, and Chinese Buddhism. These philosophies emphasize harmony with nature, social ethics, and principles such as yin and yang (a balanced duality in nature). Taoism focuses on harmony with the Taoist (path of medicine), and Confucianism on social ethics and individual responsibilities.

Japanese philosophy

Japanese philosophy, which has been heavily influenced by Buddhism and Taoism, emphasizes aesthetics, simplicity, and harmony with nature. Zen Buddhism is one of the most prominent Japanese philosophical schools that deals with the direct experience of truth through meditation and intuition.

Egyptian and Babylonian philosophy

In ancient Egypt and Babylonia, philosophy was mostly manifested in the form of religious and mythological sciences. Concepts such as the immortality of the soul, cosmic order, and man's relationship with the gods were among the main pillars of these philosophies. These teachings had a profound impact on Venetian and Eastern philosophies.

Key Concepts in Eastern Philosophy

Some of the key concepts that are common to Eastern philosophy are (Dandamaev & Lukonin, 2004):

Cosmic order

The belief in the existence of a world order or law that governs everything in the world (e.g., Ashe in Iran, Dharma in India, and Tao in China).

The dichotomy of good and evil

In many Eastern philosophies, such as Zoroastrianism, the duality between the forces of good and evil is considered the fundamental principle of the world.

Liberation and transcendence

Trying to break free from the cycle of birth and death (in Indian philosophy) or achieving harmony with nature and divine forces (in Chinese and Japanese philosophy).

Self-knowledge and intuition

Emphasis on understanding the truth through self-knowledge, meditation, and spiritual experiences.

The Influence of Eastern Philosophy on Other Systems of Thought

Eastern philosophy has had profound influences on other systems of thought, especially Greek philosophy and Islamic philosophy (Panaino, 2022; Shams, 2016; Roochnik, 2023). For example:

Zoroastrian teachings about cosmic order and the duality of good and evil influenced the thoughts of philosophers such as Heraclitus and Plato.

Indian philosophy and Buddhism influenced Islamic mysticism and Western philosophy through the translation of texts into various languages.

Chinese and Japanese philosophy have also inspired many schools of art and aesthetics in the East and West.

Eastern philosophy, with its emphasis on spirituality, ethics, and harmony with the world, is one of the richest and most influential systems of thought in human history. This philosophy, with its holistic and spiritual approach, has not only answered individual and social problems of human beings but has also had profound effects on other systems of thought, including Greek philosophy and Islam.

The study of Eastern philosophy shows that this system of thought, despite its cultural and geographical differences, has universal and common concepts that continue to inspire contemporary man.

Greek Philosophy

Greek philosophy refers to a set of thoughts and systems of thought that were formed and developed in ancient Greece, from about the sixth century BC to the end of antiquity. This philosophy, which is known as one of the most important and influential intellectual heritages of mankind, has been the basis of many sciences, arts, and philosophical schools in the West and the world.

Greek philosophy, unlike many Eastern systems of thought that emphasize mysticism and spirituality, focuses on ratio-

nality, logic, and the search for truth through reasoning and analysis (Bremmer, 2020).

Main characteristics of Greek philosophy

Greek philosophy has unique characteristics that distinguish it from other philosophical systems. These features include:

Rationalism

One of the most prominent features of Greek philosophy is its emphasis on reason and logic. Greek philosophers believed that human reason could reach the truth of the world and explain phenomena. This rationalist approach made Greek philosophy the foundation of science and logical thinking in the West.

Searching for truth

Greek philosophy sought to find answers to fundamental questions about existence, the universe, man, and morality. These questions include topics such as "What is the universe made of?", "What is the purpose of life?" and "How should we live?"

Focus on nature and humans

Greek philosophers first studied nature and the fundamental elements of the world (natural philosophy) and then turned to human issues, ethics, politics, and society. This transformation reflects the breadth and dynamism of Greek thought.

Establishment of philosophical schools

The Greeks developed several philosophical schools, each with a specific approach to philosophical issues. These schools included the Ionian, Pythagorean, Sophistic, Platonist, Aristotelian, Stoic, and Epicurean schools (Asheri et al., 2007; Mueller, 2023; Rossetti, 2022).

Influence on the sciences

Greek philosophy had a direct impact on the development of the sciences. Many Greek philosophers, such as Aristotle, in addition to philosophy, also worked in scientific fields such as biology, physics, mathematics, and logic, laying the foundations of modern science.

Greek Philosophy Courses

Greek philosophy can be divided into three main periods (Panaino, 2022; Jam, Singh, Ng, & Aziz, 2016):

Pre-Socratic philosophy (6th-5th centuries BCE)

This period began with the emergence of the first Greek philosophers, who mostly studied nature and the funda-

mental elements of the universe. Some of the prominent philosophers of this period are: Thales: The first Greek philosopher who believed that water was the main element of the universe. Anaximenes, who introduced air as the fundamental element. Heraclitus, who considered fire to be the main element and emphasized the concept of permanent change ("everything is in flux"). Parmenides believed in an absolute and unchanging existence. Pythagoras, who considered number and harmony to be the basis of the universe

Classical period (5th-4th century BCE)

This period reached its peak with the rise of Socrates, Plato, and Aristotle. The philosophers of this period dealt with moral, political, and metaphysical issues. Socrates emphasized self-knowledge and the search for truth through dialogue and questioning. He believed that "life without investigation is not worth living."

Plato: A student of Socrates, who proposed the theory of parables and believed in the existence of a world of ideas. He also discussed justice and the ideal society in his book "Republic."

Aristotle: A student of Plato who presented a comprehensive philosophical system and wrote important works in the fields of metaphysics, ethics, politics, logic, and natural sciences.

Hellenistic period (3rd century BC to Roman era)

During this period, Greek philosophy was combined with other cultures, especially Eastern cultures. New philosophical schools emerged that focused on practical issues of life and peace of mind:

Stoics: They emphasized harmony with nature and acceptance of life's events. Epicureans, who considered pleasure and peace of mind to be the main goals of life.

Skeptics: who believed in the relativity of truth and uncertainty in knowledge.

Key Concepts in Greek Philosophy

Greek philosophy includes key concepts and themes that are highlighted in the works of its philosophers:

The fundamental elements of the universe: Trying to find the main material that makes up the universe (water, air, fire, soil).

Cosmic order (Logos)

Belief in the existence of a rational order in the universe that guides everything.

Morality and virtue

the search for ways to live well and achieve happiness (eudaimonia).

Metaphysics

The study of existence, reality, and the world beyond sensory experience.

Logic

Development of methods of reasoning and analysis, especially by Aristotle.

The Influence of Greek Philosophy on Other Civilizations

Greek philosophy has had a profound impact on later civilizations, including Rome, the Islamic world, and the modern West:

In Ancient Rome, Roman philosophers such as Cicero and Seneca adapted and expanded Greek teachings.

In the Islamic world, Islamic philosophers such as Farabi, Ibn Sina, and Ibn Rushd translated and interpreted the works of Plato and Aristotle and combined them with Islamic teachings.

In the Modern West, Greek philosophy became the foundation of the Renaissance, the scientific method, and modern philosophy. Philosophers such as Descartes, Kant, and Hegel were strongly influenced by Greek ideas.

Greek philosophy, with its emphasis on rationality, logic, and the search for truth, is one of the most important and influential systems of thought in human history. This philosophy not only formed the basis of Western sciences and arts, but also became a world heritage through interaction with Eastern and Islamic civilizations. It continues to inspire contemporary thinkers.

Research Background

Historical research shows that ancient Greece, due to its geographical location, was in direct interaction with Eastern civilizations such as Iran, Egypt, and Babylonia. Historians such as Herodotus and Diodorus of Sicily have pointed to the cultural and intellectual interactions between these civilizations. These interactions through trade, migration, wars, and the travel of Greek philosophers to the East have paved the way for the transfer of knowledge and philosophical concepts.

Many comparative studies have investigated the similarities and differences between Eastern and Greek philosophical concepts. For example, concepts such as cosmic order (Ashe in Iran and Logos in Greece), the duality of good and evil, and the sanctity of natural elements in Eastern philosophy

have many similarities with the ideas of philosophers such as Heraclitus and Plato. These studies emphasize the influence of Zoroastrian teachings, Babylonian astronomical knowledge, and Egyptian mythology on Greek philosophy. They have.

Some studies have specifically dealt with the influence of Eastern civilizations on Greek philosophers. For example: Pythagoras, who adapted many numerical and harmony concepts from Egypt and Babylonia.

Thales, who conceived the idea of water as a fundamental element of the universe, was probably inspired by Eastern teachings.

Heraclitus, whose ideas of fire and cosmic order have similarities with Zoroastrianism.

Contemporary research, especially in the field of comparative philosophy and the history of civilization, emphasizes the extensive influence of Eastern philosophy on Greece. These researchers have investigated the depth of these influences using historical evidence and ancient texts. For example, studies that have examined the role of Zoroastrian teachings on the ideas of Plato and his theory of ideals, or studies that have examined the influence of astronomical knowledge and Babylonian mythology on the natural philosophy of pre-Socratic philosophers.

RESEARCH FINDINGS

The present study aims to investigate the position of Eastern philosophy in the emergence and form of Greek philosophy, through a comparative analysis of philosophical concepts, historical evidence, and the works of Greek pre-Socratic and classical philosophers, and has reached the following conclusions and findings:

The Influence of Eastern Civilizations on the Fundamental Concepts of Greek Philosophy

Studies show that many of the fundamental concepts of Greek philosophy, especially in the pre-Socratic period, were influenced by the philosophical and religious teachings of Eastern civilizations such as Persia, Egypt, and Babylonia. For example:

The concept of cosmic order (Ashe in Iran and Logos in Greece), which refers to the rational and divine order of the world, is common to both Eastern and Greek philosophy. This concept is clearly seen in the works of philosophers such as Heraclitus and Plato.

The Zoroastrian teachings about the duality of good and evil and the battle between the demonic and Ahura forces have similarities with Vanani's ideas about the confrontation of good and evil in the world.

The influence of astronomical knowledge and Babylonian mathematics on philosophers such as Pythagoras, who emphasized the importance of numbers and cosmic harmony, is undeniable.

The Relationship of Greek Philosophers with the Scientific and Philosophical Centers of the East

Historical evidence shows that many Greek philosophers traveled to the scientific and religious centers of the East to study science and philosophy. These trips played an important role in the transfer of Eastern knowledge and ideas to Greece:

Pythagoras, who traveled to Egypt and Babylonia, adapted many concepts of numeracy and harmony from these civilizations. His teachings on numbers and cosmic order are a reflection of Eastern knowledge.

Thales, the first Greek philosopher to be recognized as the founder of natural philosophy, probably drew inspiration from Egyptian teachings for his knowledge of water as the *BenYadin* element of the world.

Plato and Aristotle have also referred to concepts in their works that have similarities with the teachings of Zoroastrianism and other Eastern philosophies.

The Role of Oriental Knowledge in the Development of Natural Sciences and Natural Philosophy of Greece

Eastern civilizations, especially Babylon and Egypt, had advanced knowledge in the fields of astronomy, mathematics, and medicine. These sciences had a direct impact on Greek natural philosophy:

With their advanced knowledge of astronomy and mathematics, the Babylonians influenced the ideas of philosophers such as Anaxagoras and Anaximenes. The concept of the four elements (water, air, fire, and earth), which stands out in Greek philosophy, was probably inspired by Eastern teachings.

In Egypt, the knowledge of medicine and the knowledge of the temples, which emphasized natural order and cosmic harmony, influenced philosophers such as Pythagoras and even Plato.

Conceptual Similarities between Eastern and Greek Philosophy

A comparative analysis of philosophical concepts shows that there are significant similarities between Eastern and Greek philosophy. Some of these similarities are:

The concept of the immortality of the soul, which is prominent in Zoroastrian and Egyptian philosophy, is reflected in Plato's ideas about the world of ideas and the immortality of the soul.

The concept of the sanctity of natural elements, which is important in Eastern philosophy, especially in Iran and Babylonia, can be seen in the works of philosophers such as Thales and Empedocles.

Emphasis on cosmic harmony and man's relationship to the universe, which is common in Eastern and Greek philosophy.

The Role of Eastern Philosophy in Creating an Intellectual Context for Greek Philosophy

The findings of the research show that the philosophy of the East, especially the teachings of Zoroastrian, Egyptian, and Babylonian, has played an important role in creating an intellectual basis for the emergence of Greek philosophy. These influences can be seen not only in philosophical concepts but also in the intellectual methods and scientific approaches of Greek philosophers:

Zoroastrian teachings about ethics and world order have influenced the ideas of Plato and Aristotle.

Egyptian and Babylonian knowledge of astronomy and mathematics contributed to the development of natural and scientific philosophy in Greece.

Differences between Eastern and Greek Philosophy

Despite the many influences and similarities, there are also differences in approach between Eastern and Greek philosophy:

Eastern philosophy focuses more on the mystical, spiritual, and divine aspects, while Greek philosophy focuses on rationality and logic.

In Eastern philosophy, man is regarded as a part of the whole world in harmony with nature, while Greek philosophy places more emphasis on man's intellectual independence and his ability to know the world.

Based on the findings of the research, it can be concluded that Eastern philosophy has played an important role in the emergence and transformation of Greek philosophy.

These influences have been realized through the transfer of knowledge, philosophical concepts, and cultural interactions between Eastern and Greek civilizations. And the development of these concepts created an independent philosophical system that became the basis of philosophy and science in Western civilization.

The findings of this research show that Greek philosophy is not only the product of the ingenuity of the Greeks but also the result of extensive cultural and intellectual interactions with Eastern civilizations.

These interactions are considered a turning point in the history of human thought and indicate the importance of cul-

tural exchange in the development of philosophy and science.

DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

The present study, by examining the position of Eastern philosophy in the emergence and formation of Greek philosophy, showed that Greek philosophy, as one of the most prominent intellectual systems in human history, was not only the product of the genius of the Greeks, but also the result of extensive cultural and intellectual interactions with Eastern civilizations. The philosophical and religious teachings of the civilizations of Iran, Egypt, and Babylon, through the transfer of knowledge, the travels of Greek philosophers to the East, and commercial and cultural interactions, have had profound effects on the fundamental concepts of Greek philosophy. The findings of the research indicate that concepts such as cosmic order, the duality of good and evil, the sanctity of natural elements, and the immortality of the soul, which have been prominent in Eastern philosophy, have

been reflected in the works of Greek philosophers such as Thales, Pythagoras, Heraclitus, and Plato. Also, advanced Eastern knowledge in the fields of astronomy, mathematics, and medicine has provided the basis for the development of natural philosophy in Greece. However, by redefining and rationalizing these concepts, Greek philosophers created an independent philosophical system that emphasized rationality, logic, and the search for truth through reasoning. This philosophical system formed the basis of Western sciences and schools of thought, and its effects continue to this day. Finally, this research shows that Greek and Eastern philosophy, despite their differences in approach, have been in a dynamic cultural and intellectual interaction. This interaction not only paved the way for the development of philosophy and science in ancient times but also highlights the importance of cultural and intellectual exchange between civilizations as a key factor in the development of human civilization.

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