

**IBO, OA.219**

**Gan, Yang, 'The Enemy of Liberty: Monism of Truth, Goodness and Beauty' (in Chinese), Dushu, 10 June 1989, 121–8**

Summary: Published at the time of the Tiananmen Square protests, this is the first essay written by a Chinese scholar to introduce IB's thought to mainland China. Gan Yang writes that IB's philosophy has two foci, pluralism and freedom to choose. He emphasises that although monism is very attractive to most people, especially to intellectuals, pluralism is vital for individual freedom, because monism often leads to tyranny and the destruction of individual freedom. However, pluralism is difficult to accept, because it recognises the incomparability and incommensurability of values, ideas most people do not warm to.

Modern history, especially that of twentieth-century China, shows that monism has not brought the ideal society that people long for: rather it has brought much tragedy and suffering. Gan Yang calls on China's intellectuals to reject monism and decide to act like the fox who knows many different things: this would be good not only for China, but also for humankind. (His views have subsequently changed.)