DIOGENES

Diogenes 224: 131–133
ISSN 0392-1921

Abstracts

Silvia Mancini
Imaginaries of Cultural Diversity and the Permanence of the Religious

The author starts by noting a discourse that is widespread but more or less diffuse in the media and certain contemporary political and intellectual quarters, and which has to do with 'the permanence of the religious': according to an idea now current, the religious might be resistant to the process of secularization of civil society, because of its psychological and existential implications, or if seen as a universal, irreducible component of human culture. The author analyses the different aspects of this discourse, puts them into perspective in order to draw out their intellectual and political elements and attempts to reconstruct their historical and cultural origins and show how the refusal to historicize 'religion' is expressed today through various types of scientific argument coming out of the human and social sciences (arguments which appeal, for example, to the Latin concept of 'civilization', or the Germanic one of '*Kultur*').

Aloyse Raymond Ndiaye
Religion, Faith and Toleration

The religious intolerance that nowadays feeds a number of current conflicts leads us to rethink our modern conception of toleration, which emerged from the theological and philosophical debates accompanying or thrown up by the doctrinal controversies and politico-religious wars of the 16th and 17th centuries. It is defined by respect for distinct orders: that of conscience and that of the law, private and public, faith and reason. It bears the mark of religion and theology and relates to the idea of human dignity which was given its ethical foundation in the 18th century by Kant's doctrine of autonomy. Current events teach us that still today people kill and persecute in the name of faith, in the name of God, in the name of religion, because they have a different opinion or belief. If toleration, child of the Enlightenment and critical reason, has not definitively gained the upper hand in a rational, technical world, we need to ask whether it is not because we have neglected faith. To conclude from the distinction between reason and faith that they are antagonistic has not led

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SAGE: Los Angeles, London, New Delhi and Singapore, http://dio.sagepub.com
DOI: 10.1177/0392192110365272

https://doi.org/10.1177/0392192110365272 Published online by Cambridge University Press

to uprooting the human spirit's intolerance. Might we have forgotten that peace is also the business of religion? What should we expect, what should we hope for from dialogue between religions? Could faith be the antidote to intolerance?

Peter Kemp
Rethinking Philosophy: The Power of the Word

The author discusses the limits, the power and the dangers of speech, seen as the essential mode of all philosophical 'acts'. The place of speech in the public sphere is mentioned in relation to the politico-religious debates that have taken place in Denmark in the last few years. The paper returns to and develops the inaugural speech at the World Philosophy Conference in Seoul, South Korea, in July 2008.

Philip Cam
Educating for Democracy

The author, a specialist in philosophy for children who is recognized worldwide, presents the conceptual and philosophical framework within which the idea of early education in philosophical discussion is situated. A theory of education and its place in social and cultural development is the precondition to any practice aimed at doing philosophy with children.

Michel Tozzi
Helping Children to Philosophize:
State of the Art, Live Issues, Outcomes and Proposals

The author discusses in detail the basic issues related to the practice of philosophical discussions with children. He identifies and problematizes the different methods or modalities for doing philosophy with children currently practised throughout the world. He presents a series of pedagogic and didactic issues and puts forward some proposals and directions for the future that might allow us to facilitate philosophy-oriented discussions with children.

Micheline Galley
In the Footsteps of the Sons of Hilâl

The article aims to contribute to a wider knowledge of the Hilâl epic, a masterwork of popular Arabic literature that tells the story of a nomadic pastoral people from the Arabian deserts. The focus is on the 'Taghrîba' cycle, which relates the migration in the 11th century of these Sons of Hilâl to Ifrîqiyya, present-day Tunisia.

In this context reference is made to the political act of the Fatimid power that launched the Hilalians on the conquest of Ifrîqiyya, as well as to historians' and lin-

https://doi.org/10.1177/0392192110365272 Published online by Cambridge University Press

guists' perception of it. But interest is centred more on the texts, which are copiously quoted, their poetic quality and their message – the expression of a tribal humanism, composed of grandeur and human dignity, particular to those desert people.

Ian Hacking
The Question of Culture: Giulio Preti's 1972 debate with Michel Foucault revisited

Ian Hacking sets out a parallel between Michel Foucault's thought and that of Giulio Preti based on the debate between them that took place in 1971. This is the speech given at the award of the 'Giulio Preti' Prize in November 2008.

Paolo Parrini
Science as Thinking Reason

The author discusses the evolution of Heidegger's conception of science and brings out its limits as well as its possible developments. An eminent representative of contemporary thinking in the theory of knowledge, Paolo Parrini stands in a line of critical realism in the Kantian neopositivist tradition. This paper returns to and develops the *lectio* delivered at the award of the 'Giulio Preti' Prize in November 2008.

https://doi.org/10.1177/0392192110365272 Published online by Cambridge University Press