ABSTRACT

Divine Providence, Theodicy, Freedom and the Essence of Time

This article outlines the meaning of the notion of divine providence. The thought leads, as Leibniz shows, to a world sufficiently grounded in the love of God. This is not a matter of mechanistic predestination, but of human freedom always responding to the infinite openness and the related sense of divine creative power. Leibniz's reflection shows the relational content of divine providence, Kant the meaning of autonomy, and Hegel the "Mit-Sein" (Being-With) in solidarity that opens bodies in their vulnerability to one another and makes them the site of God's experience. In all three thinkers, the idea of providence offers a potential for resistance against a nihilistic devaluation of the world. The conclusion of the paper shows that the temporal form on the basis of which the talk of divine providence seems to make sense is the anticipated future.