

„Das Dies ist ein Baum ist ein Baum. *Der absolute Geist als freies Dasein der Wirklichkeit in Hegels Phänomenologie des Geistes*“ by Kurt Appel

Abstract

An examination of the chapter on religion in Hegel's *Phenomenology of Spirit*, this paper argues that religion is not to be understood as a projection of man (Feuerbach), but as that which makes all projection impossible. For Hegel, religion constitutes an essential stage of consciousness in which the self-consciousness of absolute spirit knows that the self cannot locate itself within objectivity and that the world no longer serves as the self's projection surface. As a result, the religious stage is one of absolute loss in which the self's relation to being is fundamentally negative. In this non-relation, the subject appears to itself as an absolute divested of substance and being appears as a self independent of consciousness, i.e. as the other subject. Although the phases of religious development (natural religion, religion in the form of art, etc.) represent an experience of loss, Hegel criticizes that revealed religion holds on to a representation of the absolute as a positive past or pending future, as for Hegel the absolute is fundamentally incommensurable with representation. Instead, the paper argues that it appears through the sublation of mediating images and referential language in an immediate sensual experience. The name Jesus is the form assumed by that concrete and singular event in which all positive and finite predicates are revoked, a moment of sensuousness occasioned by the fractures of reflection and language's relation to a fracture that effaces all immediate and denotative representation.

Keywords:

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