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Die Sprache und ihr Schweigen, das Schweigen und seine Sprache.
Über das Schweigen im Zeugnis mit Martin Heidegger

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Abstract (English)

Heidegger's critique on the ontology of the present provides a sustainable approach regarding the meaning of silence. In the context of philosophical accounts on testimony, especially those concerning testimonies of the Shoah, and the Aristotelian law of non-contradiction silence is to be displayed as a genuine act of speaking, so to 'speak' denoting. This implicates the necessity of differentiated hermeneutics on the silence of witnesses on the hand, on the other hand a change with regard to our understanding of language itself. The work reflects the conditions of the change silence undergoes in the early Heideggerian works. While in *Time and Being* (1927) silence is defined by language (language and its silence), it later on becomes the definiens of language in the lecture 1933/34 *On the Essence of Truth* (silence and its language). This reading provides an elaborated understanding of the key motives of Heidegger's early thinking of silence and conduces as preliminary studies to his later sigetics.