

# Die Zeit und das Ereignis des Gastes

## Time and Occurrence of the Guest

by Kurt Appel

### Abstract

This text, an implicit critique of a metaphysical understanding of eternity as a *nunc stans* as well as a critique of a perception of time as a simply progressing *chronos* without alterity, responds to Anton Friedrich Koch's idea of a non-chronological and primordial time in which past, present and future interpenetrate. Referring to Heidegger's concept of being-toward-death and Hans-Dieter Bahr's thoughts on the phenomenon of the guest, this text wants to show that the figure of the guest points to a conception of time in the sense of a non-chronological time. For Heidegger, death denies our claims to a complete biographical unity and a last localization of the Self. The text argues that this impossibility might provide important hints for a thought of alterity introduced through the phenomenon of the guest. The most important aspect of the guest is that (s)he is someone who ought to be neither identified as an absolute foreigner nor as belonging to one's own realm. The guest thus opens up a gap within the space in which the Self attempts to make a claim to its own validity. This lacuna in one's own self is the gift of the guest, which enables to become guest of the guest and his/her time (narratives which refer to the past and desires which refer to the future). Therefore time can be conceived not only departing from being-toward-death, but also departing from being-a-guest. A universal narrative of hospitality can be thought of as the founding event of being and as preceding every chronological presence. As this universal narrative incorporates „that which will have been“, it integrates past, present and future.

**Keywords:** Heidegger, Hegel, Leibniz, Eternity, Being-toward-Death, Guest, Philosophy of Time, Hospitality