

Book Review

Responsibility and hope

by Eugenio Borgna. Ed. Einaudi, 2016

Dedication to human experiences certainly falls in the author's prerogatives, Eugenio Borgna, Italian psychiatrist and author of numerous essays, as well as specialized lectures, included in the framework of a psychiatric approach based on phenomenology. The essay here reviewed, "Responsibility and Hope," published by Einaudi in 2016, aims already from its cover, a reflection including

with respect to human nature, where the Other's emotion becomes absolutely central. In protracted actions, in pronouncing and writing words in fact, is the Other to be drawn, and what is in arousal is the central theme of responsibility. This human experience, as it is for the hope that transversely through phenomenologically the subject, contains in its own etymology the verbe «to answer». In this sense then the responsible subject shall be guarantor of what might elicit in the Other's mind and the responsibility would start from this provision. As suggested by the author is absolutely central, as the phenomenology itself suggests, from daily experiences and to abnormal clinical form. The person responsible is therefore not indifferent to the Other's experience and about the intimate evoked resonances, which evincerebbe starting from the expression of the faces. The author makes himself, through this work, explaining about how great are the

responsibilities, in current times, in terms of exposure to the means of mass communications and its cascade of images.

These exposures in fact would generate in minds saturation and habituation, and the author implicitly suggests how can properly be responsible for escape from the vulgarity of perception, to nourish our mind on genuine representations, definitely being able to enrich life's experience.

The responsibility, therefore, according to the author would be beyond ethical obligation and would assume the role of generator of semantic core of meaning, around which would orbit more genuinely the relational and existential well being.

The issues addressed during the narration, now in prose, now in poetry, regards extremely relevant arguments, touching the great historical horrors of genocide, as also referring more closely to suicide's drama. Indeed, it seems almost unbearable to understand what words might be appropriate, in the presence of the chilling theme of wishing death, where the attention contracts the highest ratios with the sense of responsibility for the Other, by suspending thoughts to make it available to the suffering.

The author's proposal to suspend the individuality, devoting himself to the understanding of the Other, represents the maximum liability rank. The topics, guarantors of the most tormented human reflections, as was the case for the evil and suffering, throw in this work the foundations necessary for an understanding of how to raise consciences devoured by suffering and which it undertakes to denial of hope.

The hope in fact, as to the responsibility, it is suggested in this work as a human expression of great value, which in common with it, shares a futurist and as in the therapeutic hope. As for the first topic dealt with, hope is a dimension of thought almost never addressed to the present and future predisposing; both human passions, phenomenologically transverse, are able to generate meaning in existence, even where the desire seems to be to stop it.

As preparation for future attempts, suggested in this work in terms of the existence meaning, hope and responsibility for the author would represent different ways to understanding and desire of own and Other's knowledge, aimed to enrich the existence without providing ever its end.

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