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Book Review

A libro aperto. Una Vita e i suoi libri. Giangiacom Feltrinelli Editore, Milano 2018. By Massimo Recalcati

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Concerning the various meanings of book reviews, it is possible to report the fundamental value of criticism and the passion linked to recent production. The book written by Massimo Recalcati diffused at the end of last year, does not need publicity because the master of Lacanian psychoanalysis (and more) is popular and deserves to be known.

Less known is the meaning that the work evokes in the reader and this in particular, dedicated to books that acquire the value of the unknown face of the moon.

Taking into account the modern technology, the diffusion and the access to knowledge has certainly been improved, but the pleasure of leafing through the pages is still the approach to a type of desire and Recalcati is certainly an expert in this field. In the incipit he underlines the value of the encounter, in the form of a cut that all the objects of desire can provoke in the subject, in the genesis of emotions, ideas, perceptions, intuitions and therefore associations.

The reader will notice that two authors wrote this book review and this is very unusual. This unusual practice was suggested by the epigram of J. P. Sarte from "*The words*" (1964). The philosopher points out that books are products on which the reader essentially projects his image. Very different then is the reading of books in youth whose value is fundamental (and Recalcati emphasizes its biographical value); reading is quite different in old age, especially if mediated by the metaphor of glasses.

In this last case, the consolatory aspect is worth and not a few scholars have died with a book in their hands. The intimacy that leads the young reader to go deeper is different, like the reflection that leads the elderly reader to asceticism. Different are the aspects related to the young reader (Recalcati cites Heidegger) as for the the image of fire, different is the meeting of the old reader with the book (Recalcati cites P. Roth), as an actor who knows how to donate the heritage to his own child. We would like to add, to paraphrase Bachelard (1948), to entrust rest to the Earth.

Well, this review is the product of the dialogue on this book between two readers, a young and an elderly one, one at dawn, the other at sunset. It is extraordinary how knowledge can be transmitted and this is the merit of Recalcati. For us, he proposes a practice: the book that regardless of digitization, has foreseen the encounter of different generations and has created relations the success of which is documented by passing on of witnessing. "*Una vita e i suoi libri*" represents a mosaic in which the pieces represent the originality of Recalcati, that we can find in ourselves, in our generations, in our culture so strongly mediated by words.

References

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