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Periagoge - Theory of Singularity and Philosophy as an Exercise of Transformation

Author: Guido Cusinato

This book returns to the question at the center of our existence, a question that the narcissistic culture in which we are immersed systematically tends to remove: "Why?" The underlying thesis is that the answer must not be sought in success or social recognition, but in a "fragment of truth", hidden somewhere inside each of us, which reveals itself only if we detach ourselves from our ego and its certainties. It is not, therefore, a matter of finding yet another philosophical theory of the meaning of existence, but rather of shedding light on the conditions under which such meaning can emerge. The author shows us that the ultimate source of our existential orientation lies in the affective sphere, and that the current crisis of orientation is derived from the atrophy of the process of affective maturation on a large scale, and from a lack of knowledge and experience about which techniques are best to reactivate it. We are like glowworms that had once unlearned how to illuminate and have since begun to hover around the magic lantern of the ascetic ideal, already criticized by Nietzsche, and then around neon advertising signs. We are glowworms that have forgotten that we have within our own affective structure a precious source of orientation. The basic thesis is that this source of orientation can be reactivated through the care of desire and practices of emotional sharing.



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Biographical Note

Guido Cusinato is Full Professor of Philosophy at the University of Verona. He conceives of philosophy as an exercise of transformation and has developed an original theory of “personal singularity” based on the concepts of “order of feeling” and “emotional sharing”. Among his most important publications are *Katharsis* (Napoli 1999); *Person und Selbsttranszendenz. Ekstase und Epoché des Ego als Individuationsprozesse bei Schelling und Scheler* (Würzburg 2014); and *Biosemiotica e psicopatologia dell'ordo amoris* (Milano 2018).

Readership

Students, specialists or (post-graduate) students, practitioners, and teachers interested in philosophy, psychology of emotion, spirituality, personal growth, self-help, and well-being.

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