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“Ethics and Anthropology developed by Marian Przełęcki”

Abstract of doctoral thesis

Reflection on the phenomenon of religion usually involves substantial and antagonizing choices both at the intellectual and moral dimensions. However, there is the possibility of working out the position that the antagonisms significantly alleviates. On the basis of Polish philosophy such a concept is proposed and developed by Marian Przełęcki, who offered concept of Christianity of non-believers. An ethical project, founded not only on the moral intuitions of the philosopher, but also on interesting religious beliefs and anthropological concepts.

Marian Przełęcki was a philosopher associated with the Lvov-Warsaw School. He was educated under the supervision of Janina and Tadeusz Kotarbinski as well as Kazimierz Ajdukiewicz. Initially in his scientific activities he concentrated mainly on research in the field of widely understood logic (empirical methodology). Over the time, in his reflections he devoted more and more attention to existential and ethical reflection. He was agnostic because he did not find justified reasons to support the thesis of the existence of God. The metaphysical experiences he treated as a category of specific experiences of values without specific religious affiliation. He was not scare of the prospect of a lack of life after death. The sense of human existence he put in the perpetual value of the actions performed by individuals during their earthly existence. In his worldview the key figure for Christianity - Jesus Christ, was treated only as a the embodiment of a moral ideal. Marian Przełęcki believed that man is good by nature. He advocated the concept of a human sketch by Blaise Pascal, which emphasizes above all the fragility but also the rationality of the human being. He believed that the will of man (his decision) was to a large extent determined, but this kind of determinism not exclude the possibility to make free ethical choices. He thought that man was endowed with intuition of value, which allows him to recognize what is good and what is bad.

The concept of non-believer Christianity is based on the conviction that the moral ideal presented in the Gospels is generally correct. However, Marian Przełęcki dismissed the metaphysical dimension of the Christian message. The moral good acts are determined by the prism behind the intention. He considered the altruistic actions best suited to the welfare of the other man. In his opinion the most appropriate way to fight against evil was to avoid violence and to take into account not only the good of the victim but also the perpetrator of wrongdoer. On the one hand this philosopher argued that the limits of a moral obligation can not be outlined, which can ensure a person's peace of conscience, but on the other hand, he thought that we were obliged first of all to help the people closest to us and we should act to the best of our ability. The evangelical moral ideal was perceived in the category of pattern, which can only be realized by the eminent individuals, but which, in spite of human weaknesses, strive to be worth.

Ph.D. thesis "Ethics and Anthropology of Marian Przełęcki" basing on critical analyses, presents the detailed description of the beliefs of the philosopher in area of religion, reconstructs the human anthropological vision developed by him and exposes the ethical conception of Christianity of nonbelievers.

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