



Without anger. The Stoic virtue against the tragic sense of life

Fulvia de Luise

This essay aims to explain, starting from Socrates, the firm opposition of the ancient philosophers to the tragic feeling of life and to lamentation about the evils of existence. The analysis uses some references to Plato and Aristotle to show aspects of continuity in their ethical prescriptions: the call to take responsibility of our own lives; the prohibition of complaining for the bad luck; the invitation to cultivate virtue. Finally we analyze the extreme case of the Stoic ethics, which on one hand offers the unique value of virtue, on the other a rational and benevolent image of Fate. With prescription to accept the offer of the destiny voluntarily, with the commitment to perform well the task assigned.

Anger and justice

Paola Giacomoni

This essays considers one of the aspects of anger by means of a philosophical analysis of three literary works written in different epochs: the *Eumenides* by Aeschilus from antiquity, *Michael Kohlhaas* by Heinrich von Kleist from the Romantic culture, and the contemporary work *Chain of Voices* by André Brink. Anger is interpreted here as an energy that compels to action and as a representation of a possible transition from a vengeance logic to a justice logic. This passion is not illustrated through its possible disruptive meaning, but as a force that supports some not jet legitimate instances.

A deep, special gratitude

Daniele Goldoni

In Hölderlin's poetry and philosophy 'gratitude' means neither 'thankfulness' toward other people – something given in return for a benefit received from them – nor their 'recognition' (as this term is understood in the *Phenomenology of Spirit*). Rather, it is a *possible* answer to life itself: something impersonal which it is impossible to capture with a single term, just like nature itself. It is a possible answer to a gift without a giver: a generous, poetic acceptance of life and nature in its immanence. As something which cannot be achieved without experiencing the pain of loss and the temptation of resentment or anger, this response builds individuality itself as free and not ego-centered existence. Therefore, gratitude is a necessary condition for, and source of, solidarity.

***Words of sorrow, expressions of anger
Mental suffering between psychoanalysis and literature***
Gian Luca Barbieri

The author analyses the concepts of mental suffering, anger and gratitude in the Psychoanalysis, distinguishing between the theories based on the instincts and the ones focused on the interpersonal relationships. In particular, he studies, on the one side, the ideas of Freud and Melanie Klein, and, on the other, the theories of Winnicott, Kohut, Bion and Bowlby. In the second part of the text, then, he examines some literary representations of mental suffering, anger and gratitude, with other related mental activities, like guilt and reparation. We can notice how the representation of these emotions reflects not only the cultural context in which the authors live, but also some of the deep psychic dynamics analysed by the psychoanalysis.

Fear, hope, resentment, grace. For a phenomenology of the state of neglect
Stefano Cardini

The aim of this paper is to explore the relations between emotions like fear, hope and resentment, in order to disclose the role played by imagination in gaining or, on the contrary, losing a state of mind, that could be named 'grace'. By following some of Spinoza's suggestions, I browse through Kafka's last novel *Der Bau*, with the purpose to describe a prototypical quasi-paranoic Ego, who shies away from any sound relationship with the Other and illusorily takes refuge in him/herself. I discuss this condition using Ludwig Binswanger's concept of *Verstiegenheit* as form of 'failed existence'. Finally, Gaston Bachelard's phenomenological inquiry into imagination morale allows to clarify the role played by imagination in the process leading to ethical free deliberations.

Citizens without representation and social rage without mediation
Paolo De Nardis, Luca Alteri

Empty ballot boxes, increasing political indecision, social rallies often ending with unexpected and unforeseen street riots. Social rage emerges in a country affected by structural economic crisis and the prospect of an uncertain and oppressive future. The article links the historical Italian changes in the last fifty years with the eruption of social conflict, by the way of the intimate connection between politics and war.



The hope for the ultimate sense of life

Franco Crespi

Considering the distinction between sense and meaning and the fact that the quest for an ultimate sense of our life is unavoidable for any human being as in himself characterised by self-consciousness, the essay shows that, due to the essential ambivalence of self-consciousness, caught within its connatural opposed needs of differentiation from and identification with forms of determination, a conclusive solution towards defining the sense of life is impossible. Between the philosophical positions stressing the non-sense of life and the religions pretending to positively reveal the whole sense of it, a more realistic awareness of our limits leads to a fragile hope for an ultimate sense.

Elements of a Critical Theory of regressions

Marco Solinas

The essay aims to offer a critical theory of psychosocial processes of regressive and depressive type. The author starts by discussing the determining influence attributed to social suffering in the framework of the moral grammar of social struggle outlined by Axel Honneth. The author discusses some important points of Walter Benjamin's philosophy of history, in particular Benjamin's critique of traditional concept of progress, and the determining role attributed to suffering; points that are translated and moved in the framework of the analysis of regressive processes. Lastly, the author shows how a critical theory that aims to reactivate the emancipatory potential immanent in the social suffering may find an incisive and productive approach in a critical analysis of regressions.



gli Autori di questo numero

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