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Antonio SANDU

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Reflections on Existing Experience in Applied Philosophy. Book review: Existence(s). Short Deep Forage Chapters by István Király at LAP LAMBERT Academic Publishing

Antonio SANDU¹

Abstract: Applied philosophy is one of the most promising challenges for the destiny of philosophy in the contemporary cultural and social context. The reflection regarding the peculiarities of this particular form of philosophy is facilitated by reading the volume *Existence (s). Short Deep Forage Chapters*, published by the philosopher from Cluj, István Király at the prestigious Moldavian-German publishing house LAP LAMBERT Academic Publishing.

Keywords: *Applied philosophy, Existence(s). Short Deep Forage Chapters, István Király.*

Introduction

Applied philosophy is one of the most promising challenges for the destiny of philosophy in the contemporary cultural and social context. Philosophizing on a particular branch of science and understanding the meanings of the theoretical discoveries and especially of the technologies generated by such discoveries, as in the case of medicine, for example, elevates philosophy in general and ethics in particular, to a prospective dimension (Maxim, 2010), challenging the sympathetic conscience to responsibility. In turn, the reflection on art, politics, and why not on philosophy itself as an academic act, but also as a private gesture of the philosopher who take much attention to academic rigor and at the same time, who is persistent in the freedom and spontaneity of the philosophical thinking, are as many opportunities for philosophy outside the ivory tower of systematic philosophy. The reflection on the particularities of the applied philosophy is facilitated by reading the volume *Existence(s). Short Deep Forage Chapters*, published by the Cluj philosopher István Király at the prestigious Moldavian-German publishing house LAP LAMBERT Academic Publishing.

¹ Professor PhD, Stefan cel Mare University from Suceava, Romania, antonio1907@yahoo.com.

Towards a Christian philosophy of medicine

Reading this volume, I retained a series of ideas on the philosophy of medicine, as well as on euthanasia as the reference theme of this branch of philosophy, as well as in bioethics, which we consider necessary to be mentioned in this review, without aiming to exhaust the ideological content of the volume.

The philosopher from Cluj, Király István (2017), approaches the philosophy of medicine from a Christian-spiritualist perspective. The reflection on medicine begins by referring to the disease and questioning its ontic fundamentals. The issue brought into discussion, regarding "How is the possible disease" finds its answer in the beingness way... *the disease is a state of the existence*, in other words, the disease has an ontological value in itself, that affects the ontological condition of the human beings. The ontology of the disease makes the author consider the form of human existence, the experimentation of the chronic condition – of being sick - is a form of existence specific for the human being, being therefore in conjunction with the self-experiencing as Dasein. Reporting to the anguish of beingness near death that establishes the Dasein as a specifically human way of beingness, for Heidegger is prolonged by Király István (2017) with the existence around the disease and the medicalization of the existence.

The human being is never in a complete state of disease or health, the two existential states overlapping. This mixed existential condition is, for the author, an ontological condition for life, which establishes the very value of life, as we would say, the disease and not death being the current threat in the condition of our being. Death, which is the establishing of the Dasein, is an absence, whose future occurrence is a anxiety certainty, while the disease is a reduction of our present existence, an ontological absence of health as a favourite form of the human existence. The conditions of being either sick or healthy are both possibilities of existing. This remark underlies an analysis of the *condition of possibility*, and more precisely, the possibility of disease as an existential component of any biological, especially human, existence. As such, the possibility of disease is a peculiarity of the human existence, thus being part of our own condition of human existence as human individuals, more is the disease a significant part of the essence of life itself (István 2017).

The philosophy of medicine and the ontic state of health and illness is contextualized by a reflection on euthanasia as a medical practice. Euthanasia is seen in conjunction with the killing – the author states - because the reflection on death has not been developed at the level of the

language. Euthanasia is just a possibility that can occur at the end of life, and should only be understood as such. Euthanasia should be regarded as a small anticipation of the possibility of one's own death, not as a restriction of the thread of its own existence, through an external action. The author does not make a plea for the moral acceptability of euthanasia, but for its ontological acceptability.

Replacing the conclusions

Health and disease meet in a particular type of speech about the therapeutic act, therefore the author's predilection for the philosophy of the medicine. The healthy person is not fundamentally different from the sick person, the author tells us, however, we cannot support the essentialist identity between the two states of beingness of the person – being healthy and sick. Here, the author speaks about the existential condition that becomes essential – the ousia of a person who is either healthy or sick. This double nature of being is the essence of it - the ousia of the biological existence as existent in itself.

The work of the philosopher from Cluj opens a horizon of post-Heideggerian reflection on the Dasein, in the direction of the possibility of death and suffering, in which time is not the aggravating factor, but the possibility of death and suffering as a reality.

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