

PHENOMENOLOGY AND THEOLOGY

by Dai Takeuchi

My newest interest is the relationship between phenomenology and theology. It is my intent to inquire from a viewpoint of phenomenology into significance of the theology at the present age. Indeed Edmund Husserl who was the founder of phenomenology was primarily an anti-metaphysicist. But even phenomenology could not escape from the tradition of metaphysics. Martin Heidegger posited phenomenology into the metaphysical tradition, and after that, he criticized metaphysics as "Onto-Theology".

But some French phenomenologists, Emanuel Levinas, Jean-Luc Marion, etc. claimed independence of theology from ontology. This is called "theological turn of phenomenology". What they made much of then were Judaism, negative theology etc.. That God is not being, but beyond being, *meon* in Greek. In Germany Eugen Fink who was a disciple of Husserl and Heidegger had already developed "Meontology" under the influence of negative theology in Neoplatonism. But his meontology is not simply transcendence-theory. He understood, following Hegel, the absolute as life (*Leben*). German Idealism in general criticized Spinoza's substance as static, and grasped it rather as dynamic. That's to say, transcendence and immanence could be unified in a temporal becoming of the absolute. Such as a temporal meontic dimension is the horizon from which being is to be understood.

Later, Fink gets the opinion that God is immanent throughout in the world. That is called "cosmological phenomenology". But he did not get into theological controversy, and engaged in study of *Mythos*. Both pantheism and *mythos* assert immanence of God. In my opinion this cosmological thought leads to Gilles Deleuze's. Sure it looks atheistic, but the thought by which Deleuze was influenced is the *univocatio entis* of Duns Scottus. He was a monk of the Franciscan order which advocated the direct Relationship between Individuality and God.

I think ontology or theology has 3 types.

1. *analogia entis* (affirmative theology) : St. Thomas Aquinas, Husserl, Heidegger
2. *aequivocatio entis* (negative theology) : Neoplatonist, Fink's meontology
3. *univocatio entis*: Duns Scottus, Spinoza, Deleuze, Fink's cosmology

Roughly speaking, phenomenology in Husserl and Heidegger tacitly premises the thought of the *analogia entis*. Fink opened two other possibilities for the development of phenomenology.

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