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EDITOR'S INTRODUCTION

This volume on *Mysticism and Transcendence in Philosophy* addresses in a variety of perspectives a topic that in its broader sense directly relates to one of Jaspers' central tenets concerning philosophical life: the practice of philosophy is a lived experience. Knowledge is not to be seen separate from the person who articulates it; rather, a philosophical search for truth will also be mindful of a wisdom that calls for acceptance of responsibility in action. The conference panel was organized and chaired by Mario Wenning (University of Macau) who together with Alexei Procyshyn (Sun Yat-sen University) translated Ernst Tugendhat's *Egocentricity and Mysticism* (Columbia University Press, 2016). Coming from this perspective, Procyshyn explores the role of wonder in the context of mysticism and offers a reading that in part differs from the one by Tugendhat. Stephen A. Erickson (Pomona College) questions whether the foundations of spiritual experiences are eroding. Erickson contrasts Kierkegaard's view of transcendence with Jaspers' varying perspectives on the mystical and substantiates his reading of the Absolute by integrating a multiplicity of perspectives, including the ones expounded by Hegel, Leibniz, Wittgenstein, Sellars, Heidegger, to mention only a few. A religious reading of the topic is presented by Edmund Eh (University of Saint Joseph, Macau), who presents a theological interpretation of *Book Six* of Aristotle's *Nicomachean Ethics* and Aquinas' *Summa Theologiae*. Mario Wenning offers a substantive critique to each of the three essays.

Three additional essays are added to this selection, all of which relate to a Platonic reading of transcendence, albeit from different vantage points. James M. Magrini (College of Dupage) provides a speculative interpretation of Jaspers' exposition of Plato by placing it into a phenomenological framework rather than the established doctrinal one. Magrini notes the importance of relational interaction in the context of acquiring knowledge, as for example in Socratic thought experiments and myths that, in Jaspers, are drawn on in relation to the use of ciphers. Michael Weinman (Bard College, Germany) brings Platonic myths into the context of cinematic experience and the role of motion pictures for communicating subtle forms of knowledge. A nuanced application of such communication is presented by Shai Biderman (Tel Aviv University, Israel) who expands on Plato's usage of image and places it into a modern context of filmmaking, with special emphasis on documentary films, such as the ones by Errol Morris.

Viewable on YouTube

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Mission Statement

The mission of *Existenz* is to encourage research and publication on problems and topics consistent with the general overview of Karl Jaspers, namely, the history of philosophy, phenomenology, existentialism, and hermeneutics; psychology, philosophy of religion, politics, culture, and the arts. This journal serves as a publication outlet for various international Jaspers societies, including those in the United States, Germany, Austria, Great Britain, Russia, and Japan, and also considers direct submissions of articles for online publication. *Existenz* is indexed in *The Philosopher's Index*.

Correspondence

Direct all correspondence to the editors as posted at www.existenz.us/submissionguidelines.html