



Attilio Danese, *Unità e pluralità. Mounier e il ritorno alla persona (Unity and pluralità. Mounier. Returning to the person)*, Paul Ricoeur's Forward, Città Nuova, Roma 1984,

This book was awarded the International Prize "E. Mounier", Paris 1985

The author wants to present the core of E. Mounier's thoughts, the French philosopher who is one of the European fathers of personalism, choosing two key categories in a dynamics tension: unity and plurality. He develops his reflection on the relationship between person and personalism, on the comparison with existentialism, on the dialectic of interpersonal relations between private life and public one, community and society. P. Ricoeur wrote in the Preface "The indefinable character of the person provokes all the "work of thought" that is the force of this book. This notation leads me to an essential thing: if I speak about "work of thought" it is in order to praise the author because he did not surrendered face to the ineffable; he rather recognized in that ineffable character of person the invitation "to think more", rather than sheltering himself in silence or in mystery. Just there the work reveals its originality. I would like to emphasize the three contributions that the author gives to a renewed philosophy of the person.

First, he demonstrates in which way Christian inspiration remains distinguished by the movement through which a person emerges from anonymity, without remaining however, a stranger to that movement. Secondly, he brings to light, in a decisive way, the nature of dialectic thought, so that it is possible to articulate in an intelligible way a discourse on person, which is coherent without being systematic.

At last, he perceived the dialogical structure that reigns in all relationships between one and multiplicity. Our author discovers that dialogical structure at first at a theological level in the same Trinitarian doctrine... the dialectic of one and of multiplicity repeats itself analogically at an anthropological level and at a sociological level. After having read this work, you will be convinced that a long career is still opened to the philosophy of person”

(Paul Ricoeur).

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