

Le bonheur

Annie Horáčková

Annie Horáčková pursues the issue of happiness from three perspectives, philosophical, sociological and psychological, and finally tries to join these perspectives. In the context of a bachelor thesis is it a difficult task, because the author has to choose from a range of theoretical positions and approaches that are sufficiently representative. As might be expected, in fulfilling this task, she has not always succeeded.

I will bring one example:

The author correctly interprets Descartes' conception of physical and mental pleasure contained in letters to Elisabeth of Bohemia: „Descartes pense qu'il faut privilégier les plaisirs de l'esprit qui ne sont rien d'autre que les plaisirs de la pensée. Il essaye, de faire valoir l'idée qu'il est important, de se cultiver et ainsi, de privilégier les plaisirs de l'esprit. Les plaisirs du corps, entraînent bien trop souvent des addictions ou des souffrances inutiles. Le corps est visible et recherche les plaisirs sensuels, tandis que l'esprit lui est invisible et recherche la vérité.“ (P. 4.) This interpretation is a good starting point, but Descartes' view of the relationship between body and soul is not so simple.

It is best demonstrated in the treatise *The Passions of the Soul* from which I choose a short passage: „And it is to be noted that what commonly are called virtues are habits in the soul which dispose it to certain thoughts, so that they are different from these thoughts but they may produce them, and reciprocally be produced by them. It is also to be noted, that these thoughts may be produced only by the soul, but it oft befalls that some motion of the spirits fortifies them, and then they are at the same time actions of virtue and passions of the soul.“ (*The Passions of the Soul*, 161st Art.)

Another drawback of the text is a series of mistakes in French. I therefore propose the mark *dobře* (3).

17. 9. 15

Mgr. Richard Zika, Ph.D.