

ABSTRACT

The presented philosophical-anthropological interpretation seeks to examine the phenomenon of “the image of humanity” (the becoming of Self) and consequently to study the human condition defined as “man longing for knowledge”, all from a Christian perspective. After a thorough overview of the development of the Skeptical tradition in the history of philosophy, the two subjects of study will be interpreted, phenomenologically and exegetically, based on various texts from the Danish existentialist Søren Kierkegaard and the Old Testament book Ecclesiastes. The following comparison will enable us to see the parallel between knowledge and doubt in both of the authors’ works. We shall come to a conclusion that there is an exponential relationship between knowledge and doubt: the more knowledge there is, the more doubt arises. During this interpretation, the aim will also be to trace the origin of doubt, while using the story of creation from the book of Genesis as the foundation for our study. Doubt, as we shall notice, entered the world accompanied by sin (in the form of consciousness) after Adam and Eve ate from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. This moment was crucial, for man committed a qualitative leap from innocence to the state of sin. Therefore, man is situated in between two extremes (finite and infinite) and the road to becoming an authentic Self (in a true religious sense) thus requires paradoxical faith along with genuine repentance. Only then can man’s seemingly unchangeable condition of sin be transformed into a redemptive term “felix culpa” (fortunate fall).