

Hans Blumenberg

Contributions to the Problem of the Originality of the Medieval-Scholastic Ontology

Edited by Benjamin Dahlke and Matthias Laarmann

Hans
Blumenberg
Beiträge zum
Problem der
Ursprünglich-
keit der
mittelalterlich-
scholastischen
Ontologie
Suhrkamp

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Hans Blumenberg (1920-
1996) was professor for
Philosophy at the University of
Münster.

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Hans Blumenberg: 100th birthday on July 13, 2020

»Indeed, no other expression of the human mind appears to be so burdened by tradition as philosophy.«

About

In 1947, Hans Blumenberg from Bargteheide in Holstein submits his doctoral thesis entitled »Contributions to the Problem of the Originality of the Medieval-Scholastic Ontology« and written under the most difficult personal circumstances to the Christian-Albrechts-University of Kiel.

In it, Blumenberg presents an examination of the thought of the Christian Middle Ages, with constant reference to the philosophy of Husserl and to Heidegger's »fundamental ontology« in particular, during which the question of the reason for being had undergone a both critical as well as productive intensification.

The doctoral thesis is deemed »excellent« by examiners Ludwig Landgrebe and Rudolf Schneider, but all efforts of finding a publishing house for the work fail.

Blumenberg's brilliant first work remains unprinted for more than 70 years. Now it is published for the first time in a reader-oriented edition that includes translations of the numerous classical quotations as well as an »index of reference works«, that closes the gap of the bibliography missing in the original and that even supplements it with editions available today. In their afterword, the editors illuminate the context of the work's creation, which opens up surprising perspectives onto Blumenberg's biography and the development of his thought.

Praise

»Already with this early text the reader immerses himself in Blumenberg's unique world and language. Whoever engages with this world will encounter a fascinating view of the Medieval Period – not a closed cathedral but an open house with several entrances.« Dominik Perler, *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*

»Blumenberg's first thesis is finally available in a beautiful and useful edition that every reader interested in Blumenberg is going to appreciate and every Blumenberg aficionado is going to add into their library as a matter of course.« Till Kinzel, *Informationsmittel*