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Pozivaju Vas na predavanje

Dragane Jagušić

Degrees of Beauty
Stupnjevi ljepote

(predavanje će biti na hrvatskom jeziku)

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Dragana Jagušić studentica je postdiplomskog studija *Filozofija i suvremenost* na Filozofskom fakultetu u Rijeci.

Degrees of Beauty

Abstract

In various philosophical, religious and mystical traditions, beauty is often found related to intellectual upliftment and spiritual ascent, which suggests that besides its common aesthetic value it may also acquire an epistemic, metaphysical and spiritual meaning or value.

I will examine in detail three such accounts in which beauty, at times inseparable from desire and love, mediates between physical, intellectual and spiritual levels of existence. Since beauty in all three accounts assumes mediatory role or function, I will name them: ancient Greek Eros-mediation or Beauty-mediation (Plato), late medieval Italian Beauty and Love-mediation (Dante) and pre-modern Indian Beauty and Love-mediation (Rūpa Gosvāmi).

In the first section, I analyse the stages of Eros or Beauty-mediation in Plato, after which in the second section I turn to Dante's Beauty and Love-mediation and compare it with Plato's account. In the third section I analyse Rūpa's account of Beauty and Love-mediation in comparison to both Plato and Dante.

I argue that there are certain patterns of mediation which are mutually shared if not between all three, then at least between two accounts. While Plato's account clearly influenced Dante and was well integrated into it, there is no mention or evidence of pre-modern Bengali theologian being influenced by the ancient Greek and medieval Italian philosophy and mysticism. However, strong convergence of elements of Beauty-mediations in Plato and Dante, as well as Beauty and Love-mediations in Dante and Rūpa Gosvāmi, confirms the universality of certain features of Beauty and Love-mediation which speaks in support of the all-inclusive account of Beauty and Love-mediation.