

## Standpoint

**From:** Nikolay Ivanov Turlakov, Assoc. Prof., PhD, IPS at BAS  
**Regarding:** Academic activity and scientific works of Tsvetelin Angelov Angelov, Ch. Assist., PhD., provided for participation in the competition for the occupation of the academic position "associate professor" in the professional field 2.3. Philosophy , for the needs of The Department "Religion, Beliefs, Worldview" in IPS at BAS , published in The State Gazette, issue 58/09.07.2024

**Reason:** Order of the Director of the IPS at BAS, No. RD 09-253.5 of 09.09.2024

Ch. Assist. Dr. Tsvetelin Angelov Angelov is the only participant in the announced competition. The materials and documents submitted by him meet the regulatory requirements and rules for admission to the competition. He has defended two doctorates at SU "St. Kliment Ohridski" - the first is in theology, on the topic of "Kant's transcendental ontology and its relation to theology" (2007), and the second one in philosophy, on the topic of "The problem of Dasein in Heidegger's fundamental ontology (2015). Tsvetelin Angelov has teaching experience in the field of secondary education, as well as in the Faculty of Theology of the SU. He has presented a list and inventory of one monograph, 7 studies, 11 articles, and also indicated membership in 3 research projects, 22 participations in scientific forums and 9 delivered reports.

For the competition, Angelov presents a monograph on the topic "Philosophical dimensions of the problem of the Divine Absolute" (2024, Sofia, IC "Propeler") in the amount of 420 pages, which includes a preface, three chapters and a conclusion. The bibliography contains 82 titles in Bulgarian, German and English languages.

The initial thesis of the monograph is that the question of the Divine Absolute is fundamental in philosophy. In order to defend that thesis, Tsvetelin Angelov undertakes a research about "the relevance of the problem of the Divine Absolute in different philosophical perspectives and ideological-paradigmatic contexts". This is a difficult task, which, however, he manages to cope with in the end. It is impossible to dwell on all the questions, problems and topics in the work of Tsvetelin Angelov in one opinion. I will highlight only a few things that seem important to me as contributions and achievements of the study.

In the preface, in connection with the initial thesis of his work, Angelov states the claim to examine the problematic and multiple dimensions of the Divine Absolute, as it relates to all divisions and aspects of philosophy, and also to examine the complex relationship between philosophy and religion from point of view of philosophy. Angelov points out that key to his interpretation will be the philosophical concepts of Kant and Hegel, but also those of Spinoza and partly Heidegger.

The first chapter begins by clarifying the correlation between philosophy and religion, on the one hand in the philosophy of Kant, and on the other - in the philosophy of Hegel.

The role of the concept of the highest Being (God) in Kant is very well revealed - in theoretical philosophy (as a transcendental ideal and regulative principle) and in practical philosophy (as a constitutive principle). Angelov successfully shows that "Kant's philosophy is possible meaningfully and logically only through the premise of the existence of God", insofar as God "is equally necessary as a "transcendental ideal" and a "regulatory principle" (p. 40).

It is clearly shown how in Hegel, on the one hand, philosophy and religion have a common content and subject, namely the Divine Absolute, and on the other hand - how philosophy and science have a common form and method, Angelov points out that precisely from this understanding of philosophy with Hegel it is justified as the science of the Divine. The role of reason in Hegel as "the basis of the concept of religion" (78) and accordingly philosophy as a form of divine revelation is examined in depth and detail.

In general, examining the philosophical concepts of Kant and Hegel in first chapter, Tsvetelin Angelov demonstrates not only a detailed knowledge of these concepts, but also contributes to the horizon of his own philosophical understanding of the Divine Absolute as a fundamental philosophical topic.

In the second chapter, he examines the arguments for the existence of God and the immortality of the soul. Here again the concepts of Kant and Hegel are the subject of analysis. In addition to the traditional arguments (ontological, cosmological, teleological) for the existence of God, Angelov examines carefully and substantiated the modern arguments of Intelligent Design, scientism, the anthropic principle and "verification" in quantum physics.

Angelov's conclusion regarding the problem of the immortality of the soul is that "the idea of "the immortality of the soul is intelligible" insofar as it is related to the "transnaturalistic and suprabiological essence of existence" (p. 244).

The third chapter is devoted to the philosophical concepts of the Absolute, primarily in the philosophical ideas of Spinoza, Kant, Hegel and Heidegger. Spinoza's concept of substance as a cause of itself and God or Nature, which can be counted as a contribution, is clearly, thoroughly and comprehensively presented.

In the part about Hegel's understanding of the Absolute, Angelov once again shows that he is an excellent connoisseur of Hegel's philosophy, who does not simply follow the letter of Hegel's system, but can creatively interpret its spirit in the horizon of modern philosophy of religion.

The clarification of being and the "Last God" in Heidegger is of interest. "The last God is precisely the event in the event of being - das Ereignis des Ereignisses, which is why his openness is in the openness of being, transcending the existing" (p. 379).

My general impression of the habilitation work of Ch. assistant professor Dr. Tsvetelin Angelov is that this is a conceptually complete work, written in good faith with scientific passion and the author's keen interest in the subject. The other works of the author, applied for participation in the competition, represent peculiar developments of different countries and themes from his main work.

I have no joint works with the candidate.

### **Conclusion:**

Based on the scientific contributions, merits and achievements, as well as on the basis of the overall active scientific work of the candidate, I give my categorically positive vote and suggest that the respected members of the Scientific Jury unanimously support the candidacy of Ch. assistant professor Dr. Tsvetelin Angelov Angelov for the position of "associate professor" in professional direction 2.3. Philosophy for the needs of the "Religion, Beliefs, Worldview" section at the IPS at BAS.

Sofia, 2024-10-20

Assoc. Prof. Nikolay Turlakov, Phd

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