

Book Review

A. Trupiano, A. M. Vitale (editors), *Il vincolo del reale*, Il Pozzo De Giacobbe, Trapani, Italy, 2019, 266 pp., 24 Euros.

This book is a compilation of essays by a group of Italian academics from the Institute of Philosophy of the San Luigi Papal Theological Seminary in Naples. These scholars dedicated three years to the collaborative study of Zubiri and “how to be in reality”, through periodic seminars. They worked bearing in mind the 25th anniversary of the slaying of six Jesuits in the Universidad Centroamérica of El Salvador, which occurred in 1989. The book, however, is not primarily about this political event and how it can be interpreted in Zubiri’s philosophy. Rather, it is an interesting set of investigations into particular questions of interest in Zubiri’s thought.

The book consists of an introduction and three main parts, dedicated respectively to issues of reality (“Conversione alla realtà”), openness of the real (“Apertura del reale”), and Man and God (“Pensare l’uomo, pensare Dio”). Within these parts are essays on quite varied topics. The first part includes essays on Zubiri and Descartes with respect to the notion of evidence, realism and physics, Zubiri’s new notion of realism, and epistemological and ethical implications of critical realism. The second part includes essays on the real and the unreal in Zubiri; Zubiri and Ignacio Ellacuria; Ernst Bloch, Hegel and Aristotle; and Evolution and Reality (not particularly concerning Zubiri). The third part includes an essay on Hannah Arendt (also not concerned with Zubiri); man as experience of God in Zubiri; and a brief but very interesting history of Zubiri and some of the people in his life, including his student Maria Zambrano.

The articles vary in terms of depth and possible interest to established Zubiri researchers. Some are mainly summaries of aspects of Zubiri’s thought—well done, and of interest no doubt to those unfamiliar with his work. Others explore aspects of Zubiri’s philosophy, and possible applications of it. Some, as noted, do not deal with Zubiri at all, but rather with other philosophical questions of related interest. Overall, this is a nice addition to the literature on Zubiri, and it is gratifying to see that there is growing interest in Zubiri’s philosophy in Italy, home to so much of Western culture. The book is highly recommended.

-Thomas Fowler