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Title

Cosmo-Psycho-Logos: Cultural Diversity by Georgy Gachev

Abstract for

Long Presentation

Abstract

The report will introduce the Russian existential cross-cultural thinker Georgy GACHEV (1929-2008) and his main work, "National Images of the World." GACHEV describes different national cultures based on peculiar images and metaphors he discovered in the national language, fiction literature, science, philosophy, even music and architecture of different countries. Each nation views the universe in its own special projection: "In the orchestra of world culture, each national identity is dear to all others with its unique timbre and harmony with everyone". GACHEV does not seek to firmly fix some aspect of the vision of the world as belonging to a specific nation, but helps reveal the multivariate nature of the universe, using different national "cosmos" as observation points.

Cosmo-Psycho-Logos is GACHEV's key concept, referring to the three-part composition of a national integrity comprised of the surrounding nature (Cosmos), national character (Psyche) and the way of thinking (Logos), united by common imagery and metaphors. GACHEV compares cultures using such metaphoric elements as Vertical or Horizontal Orientation in the world, the priority of Time or Space, the ratio of Masculine versus Feminine, Plant or Animal symbolism, Genesis or Creation mode, the Key Question for a given nation, the Symbolic Figure of a given nation. The report will draw on culture-specific metaphors from Italian, French, German, English, Russian and other cultures.

The presentation will provide an opportunity for existential counselors to reflect on their own cultures and the special ways their clients may perceive the world. GACHEV's works are especially relevant nowadays in the context of globalization, as a way to develop awareness of one's own national identity and build a cultural dialogue.

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