

Edited by Sandro Gorgone, Laurin Mackowitz

The Pertinence of Exodus

Philosophical Questions on the Contemporary Symbolism of the Biblical Story

SERIES IN PHILOSOPHY OF RELIGION

About the editor

Sandro Gorgone is Researcher and Professor of Philosophy at the University of Messina. He qualified as Ordinary Professor in Theoretical Philosophy. He teaches at several Universities in Europe (Freiburg, Heidelberg, Tübingen, Innsbruck). His research areas are German and French Philosophy of the 20th century with a particular attention to the thoughts of Martin Heidegger, Ernst Jünger, Emmanuel Levinas, Jacques Derrida, and Jean-Luc Nancy. His main research itineraries encompass technology and the modern subject, ontology and temporality, power and the metaphysics of work, humanism and technology, the hermeneutics of religious experience, the phenomenology of the atmosphere, geophilosophy and philosophy of landscape. Gorgone's research has been published in numerous articles, essays in collective books and international scientific reviews. His most recent book is *Strahlungen und Annäherungen. Die stereoskopische Phänomenologie Ernst Jüngers* (Tübingen, 2016).

Laurin Mackowitz holds a PhD from the Department of Philosophy at the University of Innsbruck. His doctoral thesis analyzes critical and affirmative interpretations of the Exodus myth in the 20th century, demonstrating the ongoing importance of narratives in post-metaphysical philosophical and political reasoning. In the past two years he has been working at the Wirth Institute for Austrian and Central European Studies at the University of Alberta, Canada, and the Department of Philosophy at the University of Innsbruck. His work is published in a monograph and several articles concerning the imagination and narration of collective

identity, the critique of unjust globalization, the tactics of artistic activism, the performance of multiculturalism, and the spirituality of social movements. His most recent article is *The Pitfalls of Territorial Belonging: Violence and Amnesia in the Homeland Metaphor* (Lagos, 2019).



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Summary

The Exodus has a risky and combative character that links individuals to their unconscious, to the uncertainty of their reality, and to the possibility of the disturbing event of the incalculable arrival of the Other. This encounter with the unknown does not expect a messianic salvation but a human solution, which is aware that change requires the abandonment of self-referential identities. This eccentricity is more than evasive desertion or escapism, but an experiment with new modes of organizing community that grows on the responsibilities that go with it. This collected volume gathers contemporary philosophical perspectives on the Exodus, examining the story's symbolic potentials and dynamics in the light of current social political events. The imagination of the Promised Land, the figure of the migrant, the provisional and precarious dwelling of the camp, the promise of a better future or the gradual estrangement from inherited habits are all challenges of our time that are already conceptualized in the Exodus. The authors reaffirm the pertinence of the story by addressing the fundamental link between the ancient narrative and the human condition of the 21st century.

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