

Forgetfulness of the Paradoxical? Heidegger, the Presocratics and Daoism

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Abstract

Martin Heidegger's encounters with Chinese philosophy repeatedly lead to painful questions that force us to pause and think. Thereby, and perhaps only thereby, the contemporary significance of Chinese philosophy in the West can be proven, and the "inevitable conversation with the East Asian world" (GA 7, 41) can take its course: as paradoxical communication. Heidegger has opened up a transcultural dynamic of the old and the new, of East and West, which is very promising. However, by the very circumstances of its emergence in Heidegger's thinking about the pre-Socratics and Daoism in the 1940s, it is inextricably linked with the admonition to caution. Moreover, this communication between pre-Socratic and Daoist thinking, born out of crisis and afflicted with historical catastrophe, damaged from the beginning and pathologically distorted, is a sign in which the impossibility of following the traces left behind by Heidegger is expressed. But perhaps this is precisely the problem: on the one hand it seems impossible to continue Heidegger's way to the East, but on the other there is no way that can bypass his.