

Vladimir Lossky

Negative Theology and the knowledge of God according to Meister Eckhart.

*Nomen innominabile*

The book of the Russian thinker Vladimir Lossky is a study of the apophatic theology of Meister Eckhart in the discussion with many philosophers and theologians who lived before the German mystic. We could say that Lossky considers the idea of God in comparison with the concept of being rather than existence. The first chapter of Lossky's work is focused on the question of the ineffability of the name of God. The essence of God cannot be spoken definitely because of its ineffability, but we can approach the reality of God, which penetrates us. As we draw near to Him, we have to live one name after another, but in this movement of thinking we are invited to seek God there, where He is without any name. This place is the human being, the deep interiority of each of us. For Meister Eckhart there is no doubt that God exists. We all are existing in Him, but our problem is – to be. This is why we need to find him in us and to receive Him. Anyway God does not want to take root in the human being. His intention is to be free and to live each of us free. He is the Highest Detachment. This is why we cannot possess Him and why if we want to be, we have to receive Him incessantly and every time in a new way. For Meister Eckhart, a human being is totally instable. But it is a great chance for him. He can remain in the relation with God. The very question is: how can a human being be really detached and in the same time not alone? The key to this metaphysical interpretation is offered through the concept of the analogy of attribution.