

Stanislaus Breton

“God is God” – the essay about the violence of tautological judgements

In his essay Stanislaus Breton undertakes the problem of the religious violence in the context of monotheism. The text consists of two exegeses of the tautological statement: “God is God”. The first one brings to light the potential of fanaticism (concealed in the statement), while the second exegesis, on the contrary, exhibits the evangelical message of mercy trying to overcome violence with respect to others. The essay is also an answer to the contemporary political events – it is a written reaction of a religious intellectual to the attacks of Islamic terrorists that occurred in the Western Europe in the 80-ties. There are some acute words of critique regarding politicians who – condemning assassinations – interpret incorrectly the acts of terrorism as committed by madmen violating “human rights” (not as religious but as psychiatric, ethical, and political episodes), without taking into consideration both cultural and religious dissimilarities. The desire to embrace the extreme manners of religious experience and the will to assess every religious justifications leads Breton to the dramatic, personal affirmation of the element of violence (besides the element of love), always present not only in the religious tradition of Occident, but also in his own (Breton’s) soul.