

WHY READ BLAGA'S PHILOSOPHY?*

R.T. ALLEN**

Abstract. The study is an act of suggesting some ways in which Blaga's philosophy merits the attention of Anglophone philosophers. Blaga avoids also the two dangers of the more synthetic approach: immediate generalisation which produces impressively sounding *dicta* yet fails to test them, and moving in a world of abstractions without any concrete illustrations. "The Mioritic Space" could be an example of how Blaga seeks empirical illustration. The investigation approaches also Blaga's terminology of "paradisiac" and "Luciferian" knowledge, "integration into mystery", "abyssal categories of the unconscious", "stylistic matrix", "Mioritic space", and so on, let alone Blaga's metaphysical interests and terms – "the Great Anonym", "divine differentials" and "transcendental censorship".

Keywords: Lucian Blaga, "The Mioritic Space", "Luciferian" knowledge, "integration into mystery", "abyssal categories of the unconscious".

Just over one hundred and ten years after his birth (in 1895) and more than forty years after his death (in 1961), the philosophy of Lucian Blaga is hardly known in the English-speaking world, and this collection is the first published English translation. The question inevitably arises as to what claims Blaga and his philosophy may have upon our attention. I suggest the following:

1. Blaga offers what Anglophone philosophy often lacks, *viz.* a more synthetic and synoptic approach. We tend to break up the subject-matter of philosophy into relatively distinct disciplines, especially as regards the study of man himself. We have philosophy of mind, which also deals with questions of the body-mind relation and occasionally broadens out to a philosophy of action; we have ethics which treats of human duty, and less often of human good; but we do not cultivate a philosophical anthropology which brings together these facets of human being and which also locates and differentiates man in relation to the rest of existence.

Of course, there are exceptions, such as Charles Taylor, Alastair MacIntyre and Iris Murdoch, but for the most part, we deal piecemeal and serially with separate questions and problems without trying to bring them together.

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