

**THE DIVINE TRINITY AS PARADIGM  
FOR IDEAL HUMAN RELATIONSHIPS:  
AN ORTHODOX PERSPECTIVE**

Theodor DAMIAN\*

**Abstract.** Investigating the contemporary Western society it is easy to notice the rapid erosion of family values, the relativization of such values as friendships, commitment, honesty and the like, the blind dismissing of tradition, and other similar tendencies and attitudes. In fact, it seems that the more a certain thing is valuable to people, the more it will become subject to direct and indirect attacks and denigration. As if nothing is holy any longer in our days except for the self-righteousness of the individual or of a certain group of people. The paper analyzes also the aspect that many blame religion for the violence we see in our world today. There is a need for everyone to listen, to learn, to re-examine, to apply that imperatively necessary *audietur et altera pars*.

**Key words:** Western society, relativization of values, self-righteousness, violence, human nature

**Introduction**

As René Girard put it, “the violence we would love to transfer to religion is really our own, and we must confront it directly. To turn religions into scapegoats of our own violence can only backfire in the end”<sup>1</sup>.

Three observations must be made here: first, there is a tendency in our days to transfer violence to religion and since we look for the cause of our illness in the wrong place we will never heal; second, but related to the first, we are not ready for critical self-examination, for a direct confrontation with ourselves. It is good to remind ourselves in this context that Socrates placed the worthiness of life in the process of self-examination. Third, again related to the first one, looking for scapegoats just in order for us to falsely feel good, which is lying to ourselves, the gravest of all lies, is going to backfire in the end. It is going to produce more violence, pain and destruction. This reminds one of Christ’s warning when He said that the last lie will be worse than the first one (Matthew 27, 64).

\*

---

\* Full Member of the Academy of Romanian Scientists, New York Department, Professor PhD at Metropolitan College of New York.

<sup>1</sup> René Girard, “Violence and Religion: Cause or Effect”, in *The Hedgehog Review*, vol. VI, Nr. 1, Spring 2004, p. 20.