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The Paradigm of World's Body in M. Merleau-Ponty's Phenomenology and Zen's Tradition of Thought

Summary

This article discusses the problems of comparative philosophy. Here by comparing philosophical ideas of influential French phenomenologist Maurice Merleau-Ponty and tradition of Zen we will seek to prove that the inherent contrast between subject and object of classical Western thought can be overcome. The backbone of this article is comprehensive studies of perception and flesh in Merleau-Ponty's and Zen's philosophies which leads us through the obvious aesthetisation of traditional philosophical issues and shows that the theory of aesthetics developed by French philosopher must be understood not as the extension of classical Western ontology, but as the very core of it which marks the transition of aesthetic

consciousness into the level of post-modern being. Precisely on this defined plane of the strategies of comparative philosophy we can draw the obvious parallels between West and East Asian cultures of approaching the world. Analyzing these problems by the aspect of comparative and considering the fundamental aspects of humanity such as perception, experience and flesh, we are able to open the proximity of many crucial notions between these traditions. As it will be said in the article that the crucial points of Merleau-Ponty's comparative philosophy are in the very places which are unconditionally fundamental for Nishida's philosophical thinking which is based on Zen's tradition of thought.

Keywords: Comparative philosophy, Merleau-Ponty, Zenbuddhism, East-West, Aesthetics, Phenomenology, Experience, Perception, Flesh

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