



Review of Valeria Aleksandrovna Prikhotko dissertation

„Religious Thanatology: A Comparative Study of the Genesis of Religious Philosophical Doctrines“

In her dissertation Valeria Aleksandrovna Prikhotko aims to analyze and compare the doctrine of death in the religious systems of early Buddhism, early Christianity and early Islam. Through comprehensive analysis of available written sources in this dissertation author provides the overview of doctrine of death in three religious traditions and aims at comparing them. This dissertation provides interesting material for further scientific discussion on the perceptions of death in three religious traditions, the practical application of these perceptions in the everyday life and I would like to congratulate the author and her supervisor with the result. However, the task of reviewer is to provide critical insights about the dissertation which I will discuss in the following text.

In the introduction Prikhotko discusses the relevance of the topic for current hospice movement and practice-oriented palliative care in the context of increasing cultural diversity. Author argues that palliative and hospice care is based on the Christian values and thus her work intends to contribute to the understanding of thanatological ideas in other religious traditions (p. 6). Unfortunately, the author does not expand her argument, which in my opinion would add special features to the novelty of the work and its relevance for scientific knowledge and its practical implementation.

Further in the introduction Prikhotko presents the academic literature review, which is relevant for the topic, however the main used literature is only in Russian language, the religious texts used in this work were also translated into Russian language. Thus, the question might be asked how this work is relevant for the universal scientific knowledge. The self-reflection of the author concerning the impact of translation for the understanding of religious texts and their ideas would be relevant, too. Some used sources were translated and published during Soviet times, how this fact is relevant for their originality is not approached in the work, too.

The introduction of Prikhotko's dissertation also provides main tasks of the work and three last tasks intend to approach the comparison of doctrines of death within three religious traditions (p. 21). However, the comparison of the doctrines of death within three religious traditions is quite scattered, not structured. The special chapter dedicated for the comparison of doctrines of death of three religious traditions and presentation of categories for comparison would have contributed to the fluency and comprehensiveness of this dissertation.

The part of conclusions of Prikhotko's dissertation is rather summarizing the work than concluding and providing new knowledge about doctrines of death in three religious traditions.



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Provided references in this dissertation are not structured. It would be helpful for the reader to see which sources belong to the analyzed religious traditions and which works are scientific works.

In summary, despite the critical observations discussed above and provided questions for discussion this dissertation and the published work of the author that it summarizes, represents a substantive body of novel and informative work. Valeria Aleksandrovna Prikhotko's dissertation „Religious Thanatology: A Comparative Study of the Genesis of Religious Philosophical Doctrines“ is considered to be meeting the criteria for the degree of Candidate of Philosophical Sciences and can be defended publicly.

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