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Sommario/riassunto

The thought of Meister Eckhart - the Dominican theologian, the preacher, the master of language, the mystic - exudes a remarkable fascination on the modern mind, not the least due to its characteristic interplay of scholastic-academic and vernacular terminology. This volume presents the only book-length study in English of Meister Eckhart the philosopher within the tradition in which his thought is embedded and from which it draws its authority. It shows that even as

Eckhart may be justly regarded as a medieval precursor of a modern philosophy of subjectivity, the novelty and continuity of his thought can only be understood in its relation to that of Albert the Great, Aristotle, Dionysius Pseudo-Areopagita, the Liber de causis and the Neoplatonic heritage, Theodoric of Freiberg and Thomas Aquinas as well as Eckhart of Gründig, Jakob of Metz and Johannes Picardi of Lichtenberg. At its center lies the return of the soul, through its detachment from everything corporeal, manifold and temporal, into its ground or spark - into that "something" in the soul where, according to Eckhart, "the ground of God is my ground and my ground is God's ground". The present translation not only revises the German-language original to take account of recent debates in Eckhart-scholarship, it moreover makes accessible to the non-specialist all Latin and Middle High German material, much of it previously not available in any translation at all. Meister Eckhart: Dominikanischer Theologe, Prediger, Sprachgenie, Mystiker - sein Denken fasziniert den modernen Menschen nicht zuletzt wegen der einprägsamen Wechselwirkung von scholastisch-akademischer Terminologie und deutscher Mundart. Der vorliegende Band ist die einzige englischsprachige Monographie über Meister Eckhart als Philosophen, die ihn im Zusammenhang der ihn maßgeblich bedingenden philosophischen Tradition interpretiert. Auch wenn Eckhart zurecht als Vordenker der modernen Subjektivität gilt, kann man ihn nur im bezug auf Albert den Großen, Aristoteles, Dionysius Pseudo-Areopagita, den Liber de causis und die neuplatonische Tradition, Dietrich von Freiberg und Thomas von Aquin sowie Eckhart von Gründig, Jakob von Metz und Johannes Picardi von Lichtenberg adäquat verstehen. Im Mittelpunkt dieser Studie steht die Rückkehr der Seele - durch ihre Abgeschiedenheit vom Körperlichen, vom Mannigfaltigen und vom Zeitlichen - in ihren Grund bzw. in den Funken der Seele, wo nach Eckhart "gotes grunt mîn grunt und mîn grunt gotes grunt" ist. Der vorliegende Band revidiert nicht nur die deutschsprachige Original-Studie im Hinblick auf Debatten in der neueren Eckhart-Forschung: Auch dem Nicht-Spezialisten werden sämtliche lateinische und mittelhochdeutsche Quellen durch die Übersetzung ins Englische zugänglich gemacht.
