

Indice

La testimonianza fedele e verace

Antonio Russo

p. 7

The true and faithful testimony

Abstract

The present paper tries to shed new light upon the idea of testimony. In so doing, the author outlines the fundamental points of the topics he addresses, though briefly. Its main features are illustrated through the analysis of Blondel, de Lubac, Tilliette, Kasper, Schockenhoff. These thinkers, whom he explicitly defines as closely interrelated by virtue of their intellectual paths and personal examples, embody a faith devoted to the unavoidable search for a rational intelligence behind its own elements. Moreover, their works are among those which share the merit to have actually embarked upon and enhanced endeavours to bridge the gap between theology and philosophy.

The inclusion of those truths into anthropological discourse will turn to the benefit of theology itself, in order to avoid a regrettable rupture between theology and desired holiness and to recover a synthesis of doctrine and life.

Keywords: philosophy and theology, testimony, M. Blondel, W. Kasper, X. Tilliette, E. Schockenhoff

Segmentary lineage system and health among the Pashtun of Afghanistan

Antonio Luigi Palmisano

p. 37

Abstract

Emerging trends in health problems and failing public health policies generally and in epidemic or pandemic situation in particular cannot be understood without an appreciation of underlying social structures. The understanding of the organization and social structure of the Pashtun society in Afghanistan is allowed by ethnographic research carried out within the family and lineage, physical and political places within which the crisis induced by the TB epidemic is expressed in the violence of a social drama. And it is not the underlying social structures who should be changed, according to the Author, but the public health policies. In this specific case it is the international health policies for the distribution of therapies that need to be changed. Recognising the roles of husband and wife in the tribal context, i.e. the constellation of related expectations, as well as the specificity of the crisis situation within the lineage, requires a different and contextual health policy.

Keywords: Pashtun, segmentary lineage system, TB, health policies, epidemic

Le trasformazioni delle funzioni e dei simbolismi assegnati agli alberi e alle piante in un contesto appenninico abruzzese: Lama dei Peligni

Amelio Pezzetta

p. 57

The transformations of the functions and symbolisms assigned to trees and plants in an Apennine context in Abruzzo: Lama dei Peligni

Abstract

Lama dei Peligni is a small town in the Abruzzo province of Chieti that is slowly becoming depopulated and the agro-pastoral economy has disappeared with much of its values and cultural models. Taking this into account, the present work aims to analyze the transformations that took place locally, the symbolisms and functions attributed to trees, flowers and the plant world. To do this, we will provide the definitions that are assigned here to the concepts of function and symbol and then we will analyze the local facts. The concepts of symbols and functions have been extensively covered in anthropology, sociology and other disciplines. The citation of the main works on these topics occupies numerous pages and consequently in this essay we will provide the operational meanings that have been attributed to them and that will be used to analyze the facts that emerged with the research carried out. The analysis of the transformations of symbols and functions will be carried out on phytonyms, agricultural traditions and, feasts, legends, songs, proverbs, popular sayings and activities proposed by the school and other institutional bodies that concern plants, fruits, flowers and trees. It emerged that they contribute to reinforcing community identity and in certain cases they are aspects reminiscent of a past that satisfy the expectations and needs of contemporary life.

Keywords: Lama dei Peligni, trees, plants, traditions, symbols, functions

Rileggendo il tarantismo come culto di trance di possessione

Stefano Dell'Anna

p. 89

Re-reading tarantism as a cult of trance of possession

Abstract

The aim of this work is to reread tarantism as a cult of trance of possession through a comparative and descriptive analysis between the Apulian rite and various cults that have similarities with it (the Greek cult of Asclepius, some Afro-Brazilian and African cults, the Argia of Sardinia).

Tarantism is a magical-religious practice with which individuals affected by a heavy malaise caused, according to popular belief, by the bite of a tarantula were helped. The healing practice consisted in healing individuals with a special music, the *pizzica*. Nowadays the *pizzica* is seen more as a folkloristic heritage to be preserved and handed down; music and dance still persist in popular festivals under the current of the “*neo pizzica*” and in the annual celebration of the Melpignano festival “La Notte della Taranta”, which for several years has gathered thousands of people in the heart of Southern Italy. In the 20th century, however, tarantism was still intact and preserved all its ritualism; this allowed many philosophers, doctors and anthropologists to further direct studies. One of the most important works considered in this sense is that of the anthropologist Ernesto De Martino who, thanks to a field research in 1959, discovered and described unpublished aspects of the Apulian rite. The author starts from the known discoveries to open a new investigation on the origin of tarantism.

Keywords: ritual, possession, trance, ethnography, dance

Parental Beliefs and Food Decision-Making in Bhaktapur, Nepal

Paola Tinè

p. 107

Abstract

Nepal is currently experiencing a dramatic increase in the incidence of food-related diseases as a consequence of unhealthy diets and physical inactivity. Despite the increased availability of nutritional advice provided by the government and health institutions, studies show that most people do not follow these guidelines, suggesting a lack of willingness by people to adhere to the advice provided. Despite the contribution of several medical studies, the socio-cultural reasons for the lack of adherence to health guidelines have yet to be explored in any depth. With the goal of contributing further insights on this topic, this paper discusses the author's research findings on the connection between changes in the family and within the production and consumption of food in relation to the topic of healthy eating. Specifically, based on an intensive one-year fieldwork in Bhaktapur among the Newar community, this article focuses on two main points. The first focuses on parents' beliefs, preferences and household dynamics in relation to food decision making, through an exploration of family relations and parent-child interactions. The second aspect addresses differing conceptions of health, with a focus on the main sources of information and misinformation in relation to health, dietary diversity and nutrition.

Keywords: food choices, health, Nepal, nutrition, parenting

Being a *Boudioumane* in Mbeubeuss An Ethnographic Perspective on Waste in Contemporary Senegal

Luca Rimoldi

p. 119

Abstract

This article presents some results of an ethnographic research project I am conducting at the Mbeubeuss dump, set up in the 1960s in the outskirts of Dakar (Senegal). Over the years, Mbeubeuss has given rise to socio-economic relations which are (directly and indirectly) caught up with the treatment of waste, thereby contributing significantly to the urbanization of neighboring municipalities and the consolidation of migratory inflows from the country's rural areas.

Moreover, since the 1960s, a community of *boudioumane* (waste-pickers) has lived and worked inside the landfill. In public representations at local and international levels, the Mbeubeuss dump is depicted as a closed world that unfolds parallel to the social context in which it is located; the informality of working practices at the dump are seen as corresponding to inevitable social, economic and political marginality. By analyzing the social stratification of a community of waste-pickers living and working in the landfill, I focus on the life and work trajectory of Badara Ngom, *boudioumane* associated with this dump site. Mbeubeuss represents both the cause of a long-lasting environmental crisis and the opportunity for many workers – such as Badara Ngom – to make a life for themselves, thus concealing its role in generating forms of vulnerability and normalizing the production of social inequalities.

Keywords: anthropology, ethnography, waste, Dakar, Senegal