

JOURNÉE MONDIALE DE LA PHILOSOPHIE UNESCO

November 18th, 2011

La Journée Mondiale de la Philosophie has taken place this year at the Liceo “Gabriello – Chiabrera” and the theme was philosophy known as an educational experience.

In the morning hours professor Werner Busch, as president of the *Association Internationale des Professeurs de Philosophie*, held a video-conference in French and English which illustrated the political philosophy of Hannah Arendt.

Her professional studies started her field interests in philosophy of the being and philosophy of the soul. But after having moved to America she also dedicated herself to political philosophy.

Everything she was able to produce from the time at the end of World War II she had had a very important role in the education of a new political point of view that can be very well adapted nowadays. Fundamental have been the works known as “*Le origini del totalitarismo*” and “*La banalità del Male*”.

Professor Werner Busch spoke about another work known as: “*La condizione umana*” that deals with men’s life on earth united with society. The main topic of the text is men’s activity and the value that is given to it.

Hannah Arendt’s theory does not look at men’s life that separates between *vita contemplativa* and *vita attiva* anymore but it is composed of a family unit defining the necessary space, and the public unit, defined as the freedom of space.

To this two concepts philosophy adds a third taken from the Aristotelic philosophy: the man is interpreted like a political animal in which we want to emphasize the importance of dialogue.

Hannah Arendt makes a division of men’s life in personal activities which would be hand labor and social life. The organization of the hand labor unit needs orders and rules, the social life can only be developed with the aid of free dialogue to endows man to have more power.

For this reason every form of hierarchy brings rules that restrict liberty of expression and can be considered as a form of violence.

At 3.00 pm the conference was held by professor Mario Letterio dean of Genoa University and president of the thesis in Mythological Philosophy.

The professor spoke about another important philosophy of the 19th century: Edith Stein.

Edith Stein was born in 1891 in a Jewish family. She enriched her studies at the Gottinga University where Edmund Husserl taught philosophy.

In 1922 she had converted to Christianity and she abides by the works of Saint Thomas that highly influenced her concept of “preparation”.

According to the philosophy this aspect should consist of all the aspects of men’s life which is a very difficult and long process: this education path can occupied a whole life and whoever is and educator can always learn from the learner.

Edith Stein sees in the term “society” the relationship of giving and receiving of the individuals, which is a process that requires a close cooperation between the members that will define the growth of the society itself.

Stein’s anthropocentric philosophy, stays each individual has his rule and a particular task to accomplish, which is defined as “*Beruf*” (call); the preparation of the individual it’s a period of research, in which everyone has to find out what his task is. Not always the individual is able to recognize “the call” because God only knows what the call is.

In this concept we can find the influence of the conversion and the deep importance it has had during her life.

After the emanation of the “*Manifesto of Race*”, Edith Stein had to take refuge in the nunnery called “Carmelo di Colonia” in which she took the name of Teresa Benedetta della Croce; after while she had to escape to Holland with her sister, but they only found refuge in Switzerland.

In 1942 they had been deported to Auschwitz but Edith Stein with her deep faith and her strong believe in philosophy, had never given up.

The topic idea that comes from her philosophy is that freedom makes education possible and necessary. She also believed education could become a way of protest against totalitarian regime.

These two women and philosophers, Hanna Arendt and Edith Stein, had been really important because they had given a fundamental contribute to the 20th century's believes because they showed off a big courage proclaiming liberty of opinion.

Liberty of opinion gives strength and power to every man.

Traduzione di Lucia Grossi Bianchi e Selene Mariano (Classe 5[^]F Linguistico)