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Book review

IL COMPLESSO DI TELEMACO. GENITORI E FIGLI DOPO IL TRAMONTO DEL PADRE. MASSIMO RECALCATI. FELTRINELLI, MILANO, 2013.

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The author defines "complex of Telemachus" a way to read into the new difficulties of one's youth in which the symbolic authority of the father is gone extinct, waning in a metaphorical sense. Unlike Oedipus, Telemachus is seen as the one who waits overlooking the sea, in defiance of what today would appear impossible. The references to terrifying opera, such as the movie "Salò" by Pasolini, propose again with all its crudity the Law of the primary process to state the necessity of the Law of the Word. The Law of the Word is the law of the Other, of which the father is a symbol; it means also to inherit the chance to confer sense and multiply senses. Multiply the sense is a necessity of life that is explained through the other. The son receives, therefore, through the paternal figure this faculty of attribution and search of sense: an inheritance for which Recalcati, of which we remember his Lacanian education, proposes four models two of them deriving from the classical Freudian theory (The son-Oedipus; The son-AntoEdipus), and who accompanied the filial paradigm until 68'. The two aforementioned models emphasize the differently conflictual relationship between father and son. The two remaining models suggested are the son-Narcissus, who summarize the behavior resulting from the great economic crisis of the last decade, and the son-Telemachus, who wants to be a new attitude to construe the relationship between sons and parents based, rather than on the absence/ 2 SETTINERI S.

presence of conflicts, on pursuing lines of personal desires and self-awareness. After such exposed son models, Recalcati proposes a reflection on the value of the inheritance as a reconquest made of gratitude, desire, nostalgia, and active practice. Ultimately, Recalcati, states that nowadays it is necessary to listen to the new generations, that we want on the one hand able to transgress but on the other hand in compliance with the Law of the Word. This compliance inaugurates symbolic differences through which it is possible to juxtapose tradition and innovation, and the implementation of further enjoyments without which couldn't begin the transcendence internalization. The epilogue of the essay refers to Recalcati personal experience of his two childhood heroes: Jesus and Telemachus; these references leave highly understand the reasons that activated the beginning of the script.

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