

## FREE ZONE

The affective autism of the ego and the feeling of emptiness

Giving beauty to the world

by Vincenzo Sorrentino

The call "Rescuing Fraternity - Together" struck me as very impactful and I would say courageous. It seems to me that it exemplifies a struggle, in some ways harsh and dramatic, between two existential attitudes that have implications in all areas of human existence: on the one hand, the attitude to be open to others, to sharing, to fraternity; on the other, the attitude to be closed in on oneself, to self-centeredness. For example, I found particularly incisive the passages in which the self-referencing tendencies of the ecclesial community and contemporary theology are denounced.

In the call, the need for new "policies of the spirit" is called for. This seems to me to be a major point that is often overlooked, even when we look critically at the ideologies that undermine the principle of fraternity at its roots. I am thinking, for example, of neoliberalism and populism: in addition to being socioeconomic and political paradigms, they are also policies of the spirit, insofar as they aim to shape the relationship that people establish with themselves in order to barricade them in the fortress of their own identity. The dramatic consequences of this closure are clear not only in the frustration of an existence deprived of meaning, but also in the ruthlessness, or rather in the lack of pity, with which we relate to the last of society, as is evident, for example, from the progressive growth of immigration policies that deny even the rescue of immigrants, let alone their reception. New policies of the spirit that go in the opposite direction are more urgent than ever, to stay human and to safeguard those dimensions of our existence that give it meaning. That is a common cause that can only unite believers and non-believers.

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