

WHY BE AFRAID OF PHILOSOPHERS?

by Paul Gilbert

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Since the years of the Second Vatican Council, in the Christian education programs, philosophy has been progressively replaced by the human sciences, above all psychology and sociology. However, the human sciences are not interested in humanism. Does philosophy have nothing to say about this humanism that is absent from today's empirical and globalized culture, which the call *Rescuing Fraternity Together* criticizes? Has no philosopher ever be interested in the man as man in a way that is important to us? (...) Kant used to say that philosophy is not taught, but one is taught to philosophize, that is, to reflect. To reflect is not to repeat "theses". There is no search for truth without the willingness to take personal responsibility for the terms, phrases and reasoning that support the reflection. Philosophy requires courage and wisdom. In their effort of discernment lies the quality of philosophers who, far from stating pretentious and volatile opinions, prepare themselves to listen and to understand, to remain open and attentive to the events of life. Wouldn't this be the spiritual attitude essential to wisely read the *global signs of crisis* listed in *Rescuing Fraternity Together*, a crisis that affects language and freedom at the same time? Wouldn't this also be a cautious attitude indispensable in theology, in order to welcome the divine event, the Word of God, with intelligence and responsibility?

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