

Interdisciplinarity in The Sleep of Reason, by Dumitru Constantin Dulcan

Paula-Andreea Onofrei

Dumitru Constantin Dulcan, *Somnul rațiunii / The Sleep of Reason*, Editura Eikon, București, 2014, 171 pages



In the book *The Sleep of Reason*, Doctor Dumitru-Constantin Dulcan reunites a few essays and micro biographies written in a special, extremely well-documented manner. The title may be misleading for some people, because it may lead them to think that the work is about imagined events. On the contrary, after having read this book, we realized that it is a lucid work in which the author approaches some controversial nowadays topics that can be regarded from multiple perspectives: they do have connections with science, art, philosophy and even theology.

Furthermore, the style of *The Sleep of Reason* is marked by orality, by free speech, without any restraints, there are a lot of reflections and comments that will make the reader feel fascinated by the presented perspectives.

Why do I appreciate this book? Because, first of all, it is focused on the human being. The anthropocentric character of this writing can be detected even from the first pages, where the author manifests his attitude towards human ambivalence. The anthropology painted by the words of Doctor Dulcan is not an idealistic one, but we can speak about a realistic manner of presenting things, the author has in view both the positive and negative aspects of the human being.

Therefore, if we have a closer look at the content of this book, we realize that there are diverse topics: “*Quo Vadis, Homine?*” [Where are you going, human?], “*Somnul rațiunii naște monștri*” [The sleep of reason gives birth to monsters], “*Panem et circenses*” [Bread and circus], “*Eșecul religiei sau comentarii la un război*” [The failure of religion or commentaries to a war], “*Filosofie și medicină*” [Philosophy and medicine], “*Evoluția –*

conștiință sau hazard?” [Evolution – consciousness or hazard?], “Cu viața pe moarte călcând sau comentarii la o carte a unui confrate” [Life stepping on death or commentaries to the book of a fellow of mine], “Gânduri răslețe la o descoperire anunțată” [Scattered thoughts at an announced discovery], “Lumina profesorului Vlad Voiculescu” [The light of teacher Vlad Voiculescu], “Petre Brânzei – omul” [Petre Brânzei – the human being], “Odobleja – neșansa geniului” [Odobleja – the failure of a genius], “De ce, Doamne?” [Why, God?], “Boala și arta” [Illness and art], “Relația dintre geniu și boala epileptic” [The relationship between a genius and epilepsy], Julius Caesar, Napoleon Bonaparte, Gustave Flaubert, F.M. Dostoevsky, Vincent van Gogh, “Sexualitatea ca mister și finalitate” [Sexuality as mystery and finality], “Cum gândim sau cum putem fi induşși în eroare” [How we think or how we can be misled], “Drumuri spre Eminescu” [Paths towards Eminescu], “Între <Inteligența materiei> și <Somnul rațiunii>” [Between <The Intelligence of Substance> and <The Sleep of Reason>].

The first chapter – *Quo Vadis, Homine?*, actually has an intriguing title, we are invited to think about the origin of these words, the book *Quo Vadis*, written by Sienkiewicz. From my point of view, it is a powerful essay written in a simple manner, but in the same time having a meditative character. In this respect, we are going to quote a fragment:

“Human being, who are you and where are you heading to? You have had God and you betrayed Him. You sank into pleasures and you got lost. You became exhausted by pain and you haven’t learned anything. You have embellished the Earth and then you burnt it. You have put a bandage on wounds and you have wounded people. You have given food to some and you have let other people die of starvation. When were you a human being and when your opposite?!”¹

It is simply flabbergasting how the author manages to shed light on the duality which characterizes our human nature, inviting us, the readers, inside the universe of deep reflexion. His optimist view is logically connected to the acceptance of the human being with all one’s strengths and weaknesses, I could not say that there is a single moment when the human being is seen as being guilty for something. Even the topic of sexuality is painted in bright colours, seen as one of the mysteries of creation, having almost magic connotations and a specific degree of sanctity, reminding us of *The Song of Songs* from the Bible and of some reflections of Paul Evdokimov.

¹ Dulcan, Dumitru Constantin, *Somnul rațiunii*, “Eikon” Publishing House, Cluj-Napoca, 2014, p.19, our translation from Romanian.

In a nutshell, *The Sleep of Reason* beautifully complements the other book of Doctor Dulcan called *The Intelligence of Substance [Inteligența materiei]*, the one that has brought the author's recognition in our contemporary culture.