HERMENEUTICAL RELIGION AND THE GIFT OF LOVE: THE POSSIBILITY OF THE ABSOLUTELY OTHER

Ty Camp

The task of my essay is to illuminate the questions of the possibilities of love and God when confronted with the various forms of alienation introduced by modern technological civilization in light of the works of Derrida’s *Gift of Death* and the Gadamer’s philosophical hermeneutics. I argue that Gadamer’s affirmative response to these questions is more satisfying because his hermeneutics reveals a kind of love that is reciprocal and requires the expansion of being in the face of otherness while not reducing to an economy of exchange. Derrida’s affirmative response, on the other hand, while it points to the weight of responsibility one incurs in the face of modern technological civilization, it does not articulate the richness of the other.