

Abstract

This thesis deals with the concept of beauty in the philosophy of the French author Simone Weil. Beauty is described in the context of other concepts of Weil's philosophy, namely imagination and void, decreation and attention. These concepts are confronted with Immanuel Kant's aesthetics, which Weil both draws on and, in many ways, transcends. The thesis seeks to show beauty in Weil's philosophy as a mediator between God and the world and as one form of implicit love for God. Necessity is an important concept for describing beauty, through which Weil also points to the painful aspect of beauty. Weil's understanding of beauty is illustrated in the work by her metaphor of the labyrinth, in which beauty acts both as a trap and as a result of passing through the labyrinth. The work also explores the concrete manifestations of beauty in the world through which beauty can be loved. These, according to Weil, are primarily art, science, and nature.