

Andrzej Wierciński, *Hermeneutics between Philosophy and Theology: The Imperative to Think the Incommensurable* (Zürich: LIT Verlag, 2010).

Wierciński's inspirational *Hermeneutics between Philosophy and Theology: The Imperative to Think the Incommensurable* undertakes an outstandingly demanding task of interrogating the possibilities of *conversation* between the apparently separate disciplines of philosophy and theology. Addressing the arguable exclusion of theology from philosophy and the severance of the philosophical and theological discourses, Wierciński sensitizes us to how they retain their autonomy, being, at the same time, compellingly interdependent and co-influencing. The hermeneutic "path of mediation," which Wierciński follows, encourages us to view philosophy and theology as "dynamic historical disciplines that are animated by the specific and very individual philosophers and theologians who practice them." Defying the misleading and simplistic idea of philosophy and theology as "static disciplines in need of logical connection," the book ingeniously explores the hermeneutic *in-between* which inspires us to acknowledge the anti-authoritarian openness of philosophy and theology to one another, as well as to recognize the inconclusive possibilities of cross-fertilizing that inhere in the two disciplines' orientation toward one another.

Wierciński substantiates his reflection with meticulous and enchantingly wide-ranging readings of Martin Heidegger, Paul Ricoeur, John Paul II, and John Milbank, and with elating references to St. Augustine, Thomas Aquinas, Duns Scotus, Hans Urs von Balthasar, and Karl Barth. Treating us to this tremendously engaging array of thinkers, Wierciński places a particular accent on Heidegger and Ricoeur's iconic figures. He interprets Heidegger's philosophical project of disentangling religious consciousness and experience from its dwelling in metaphysical discourse as a renewed impetus for theology. With a similarly powerful zest, he pursues Ricoeur's detached, agnostic philosophizing and his practicing of Christianity "in the mode of a philosopher."

Wierciński shows that hermeneutics' open, non-reductive, and sensitive mediation between philosophical and theological discourse is hope-inducing and hope-enhancing. Working patiently and with the dedication to understand the inexhaustibility of the ways that philosophy and theology employ in approaching the issues that pertain to human existence and intuit into the subtle fabric of the interconnections between them bears significant fruits. In the captivating journey to ponder more (*etwas denken* rather than *denken von etwas*), discover more, and dwell in the horizon of Truth, the world of a theologian and the world of a philosopher, engagingly immersed in the inexhaustibility of understanding, pose an unflagging challenge to think the *Incommensurable*, to which Wierciński's book appealingly and captivatingly responds.