

ANTHROPOLOGICAL AND CULTURAL CONSIDERATIONS

In the reflection on the university from the perspective of the philosophy of culture, it is necessary to refer to the philosophy of the human being conceived as an autonomous subject of cultural activity, capable of knowing the truth and grounding his or her personal life (lived in love and freedom) in the primary value of truth. In the context of the relationship between the human being and the university, the person is seen as a being that pursues the truth through cultural activity and in cooperation with others.

Therefore, the philosophy of culture approach to the issue of the university should be based on metaphysics and on philosophical anthropology: these disciplines enable an explanation of the multi-faceted fact of being (existence) of man and render an existential concept of person possible. The latter rests on the ultimate, objective (metaphysical) interpretation of the human being as a specific being endowed with a distinctive, personal form of existence. The human person, upon this view, is autonomous and fulfills himself or herself through acts of decision in the context of the existential-axiological reality.

In the present discussion of the problem of the university, the above-described concept of philosophical anthropology has been adopted (1) in the analyses of the personal openness of the human being (with all his or her po-

tentialities) to reality as such, to the world of persons, and to one's own being in the pursuit of truth conceived as the key personal value,¹¹ (2) in the concept of a work of culture as a sign of the intrapersonal creativity of the human spirit and in the theory of the intellectual foundations of personal activities,¹² and (3) in indicating that the co-being of persons constitutes a space where human beings can fulfill themselves in an axiological dimension and where their dignity and completeness as persons who transcend any political or social structures can be affirmed.¹³

It should be emphasized that initially universities focused their research on the human being conceived as a sovereign entity and on the factors enhancing the rationality of human actions.¹⁴ The sovereignty of the human being is manifested in his or her pursuit of personal objectives, i.e., (a) finding the truth through natural and supernatural cognition, (b) accomplishing the good through free acts of will, (c) creating beauty in the processes of poetic cognition, (d) establishing contact with God, thus developing the relationship of sanctity.

Human beings, who exist as persons in the real world, are ends in themselves as they have been created by God in his image and likeness; as such, human beings fulfill their lives exclusively through God. It is therefore necessary to understand the ontic structure of man, the rationality of his actions, his freedom and its limits. To develop this type of knowledge, well-organized, specialized studies are indispensable.

In the context of philosophical anthropology and the philosophy of culture, the personalist meaning of the university becomes evident. Consequently, the university should be understood as a distinguished path taken by those who are motivated to get to know the truth about the reality; in this sense, the university can be understood as a unique mode of a methodic pursuit of truth, adequate to the ontological structure of the human being, on the one hand, and to the human being's vocation to perfection, on the other.¹⁵

¹¹ See Mieczysław A. Krąpiec, "Człowiek i wartości," 43–57.

¹² See *ibidem*; Mieczysław A. Krąpiec, "Człowiek twórcą kultury," in Mieczysław A. Krąpiec, *Człowiek, kultura, uniwersytet*, 103–15; Mieczysław A. Krąpiec, "Kultura i wartość," in Mieczysław A. Krąpiec, *Człowiek, kultura, uniwersytet*, 117–23.

¹³ Mieczysław A. Krąpiec, "Osoba i społeczność," in Mieczysław A. Krąpiec, *Człowiek, kultura, uniwersytet*, 161–71; Mieczysław A. Krąpiec, *Człowiek i społeczeństwo*, in Mieczysław A. Krąpiec, *Człowiek, kultura, uniwersytet*, 125–71.

¹⁴ See Mieczysław A. Krąpiec, "Uniwersytet," 607.

¹⁵ See Wawrzyniak, "Posłowie: O filozofię uniwersytetu," 486.