

ROMANIANNES

Lucian Blaga's philosophy works as a dated spiritualist's discourse polemical with Oswald Spengler and Frobenius's cultural morphology, while borrowing hints from the then novel and fashionable depth psychology or myth criticism. (The year of publication for the Cultural Trilogy of which The Space of "The Meek Ewe's Vision" forms the middle essay was 1944). The momentous significance of this text attempting a portrait of the subjective Romanian (over-, or is it rather the deeply underlying?) soul resides in the springs of the construction itself, namely, in its attempting, on the one hand, to characterise the subliminal components of the ethnic sense of place within a wider Balkan spiritual geography ("The matrix-space which is about to be hypothetically imagined could work as a threshold on the way to a common point for a whole group of peoples, the Balkan peoples, for example"), while, on the other hand, offering a national profile within the even more comprehensive unit of Eastern Christianity, namely of Byzantine Orthodoxy. Unfortunately, as just stated, the text's construction is flawed both by being dated and by resting on too many poetical outbursts of methodologically ill-constructed petitio principii "arguments", accompanied by slight contradictions or inconsistencies. Still, this remains a seminal text for defining Romanianness, which text, had it not been written as yet, it would have been incumbent on someone else to do it as soon as possible, and maybe not as poetically inspired as Lucian Blaga did. Lucian Blaga is the late, 20th century, Romanian Thomas Carlyle or Ralph Waldo Emerson, attempting, on the other hand, just like Matthew Arnold, to be scientifically rigorous with the instruments of his own day. If we are to be given a metropolitan voice in which to circulate our own Romanian values, Lucian Blaga is the one to begin with today. In nowadays' intellectual atmosphere, the literariness of Blaga's discourse offers an adequately perspectivistic view on Romanian lived culture and its in-breathed tonalities.

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