From Apofatism to Absence: the Emptying of the World of Mystery in the Secular Speech

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Abstract

This study tries to present the role of the mystery in the Christian theology and in the secular thinking. For the Patristic theology, mystery is another name for God and for His way of interfering with our world. It does not exclude the Revelation, but on the contrary it presupposes it. For the secular discourse, the world is empty of mystery and therefore of any divine presence. God's absence is a notion which, although it is used both in the secular thinking and in the Christian mystic, denotes two opposed things.