

Abstract

The diploma thesis „Donated existence: Theological analysis of ‚élan vital‘ in Henri Bergson’s work“ presents an analysis of the notion of „vital impetus“ of the French philosopher Henri Bergson in order to examine the potential contribution of this concept for contemporary theology and for human society itself. The composition of the thesis consists of five basic parts that correspond to the principal chapters. The first chapter is dedicated to the life of Henri Bergson. The theme of the second chapter is a general introduction to the method of Bergson and the main ideas of Bergson's work. The third chapter focuses directly on the concept of „vital impetus“ as it appears and is gradually developed in Bergson's work. The subject of the fourth chapter is a summary of the reception of the idea of „vital impetus“. Based on the theological reception, the final chapter examines the potential contribution of this concept to today's theological discussion and the life of human society. The work concludes that although the concept of „vital impetus“ is based on the scientific findings that have been already overcome, it can remain constantly inspiring if we reflect what the author wanted to express through him about the reality of our world.