

# *Philosophical Aspects of Darwinism. On Integral Monism of Hans Jonas*

## **Abstract**

In general, the thesis concerns Jonas' philosophy of life. Specifically, the thesis intends to present the way in which Jonas, in quest for an "integral monism" that would again grasp an organism in terms of psycho-physic unity, argues for the overcoming of both the dualistic division of body and mind as well as materialistic monism of modern biology. Jonas states the way in which modern biology is led by an "ontology of death" and therefore, as such, misses its goal, viz., to grasp what life is. However, according to Jonas, the triumph which materialism achieved in Darwinism contains, by questioning its dualistic assumptions, at the same time the germ of its overcoming. The thesis proceeds as follows. Firstly, the way Jonas justifies the need for the integral monism is reconstructed. Secondly, the modern-biology view of life, as well as its limits, are presented. Thirdly, dualistic assumptions of this view are identified and (neo)Darwinian evolutionary theory is said to support it. Fourthly, both Jonas' criticism of such a view and a "pro-integral-monism" leaning of Darwinism are mentioned. Fifthly, the integral monism of Hans Jonas, or its view of life, and its criticism, is introduced. Lastly, it is argued that, in a way, Jonas' philosophy of life contributes to our understanding of life by being able to grasp such parts of it that are, as if, "invisible" to the life-view of modern biology.