



Francesco Botturi (ed.)

Understanding Human Experience

Reason and Faith

Peter Lang

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To understand the nature of this book it's useful to learn about its origins. This volume comes from a long work, encouraged and funded by the Catholic University of Milan, and devoted to the relationship between three major concepts: *experience*, *faith* and *reason*. Two research groups were formed and this book presents the results of one of those, while the outcomes of the other one are illustrated in A. Ghisalberti (ed.), *MondoUomo Dio. Le ragioni della metafisica nel dibattito filosofico contemporaneo* (Vita e Pensiero, Milano 2010).

Our group held a series of seminars during which the overall plan of this book was conceived and every contribution which is now here presented was thoroughly discussed. The outcome traces a plausible itinerary even if it cannot be expected to offer an exhaustive and systematic account of such a wide topic. Our aim was rather to gather a series of essays coming from diverse disciplinary outlooks (epistemological, social, anthropological, ethical and theological) around the relationship between *faith and reason*, considered under the perspective of *experience*. From these considerations comes the title chosen for this volume, *Understanding human experience: reason and faith*. The book has to be read, then, as a series of essays which are united by a common reference to the general topic, but which are also distinct when it comes to their epistemological approach, as if they were different rays of light drawn upon the same object.

The volume is divided in two sections "From Epistemology to a theory of experience" and "From a theory of experience to Theology", thus suggesting a precise itinerary through the different levels of the subject at stake. The *first* section, which has an epistemological and socio-ethical nature, is opened by two essays which underline the important distinction between the theoretical and the practical approach in philosophical discourse, so that also the theoretical and the practical considerations about the relationship between faith and reason are to be clearly differentiated. This distinction alone is quite an important contribution to the overall account the book intends to offer.