

Homo patiens in the postmodern reality

It is arduous to explain the phenomenon of suffering despite its obviousness. However, reflection on suffering is crucial, especially these days, when utopian visions about the possibility of its elimination occur. The thesis consists of three chapters. The first one presents the ideological factors that make it difficult for the postmodern homo patiens to find the meaning of suffering affecting him: questioning the spiritual dimension of a human being, the crisis of human bonds, consumerism, secularization, domination of the technological paradigm, negation of the competences of reason, problems with the personal identity of the postmodern man.

As an intelligent and free being who relates his life to God and faith, a man searches for the meaning of his existence in these spheres. The second chapter elaborates on the difficulties which human reason and faith encounter when confronted with suffering.

In the last chapter the paths of transcendence of suffering are presented. The starting point for finding this path is the confidence of the transcendent dimension of a human being. In this chapter also the reference has been made to the vital approach of human transcendence – the Victor Frankl's logotherapy. Moreover, the axiological way of transcending suffering was discussed. In addition to that, suffering is here characterized as the essence of human's personal and social maturity. Last but not least, the reflection on the religious way of giving meaning to suffering has been discussed in the last part of the thesis.