Man's Place in Nature

BY MAX SCHELER

Translated, and with an Introduction, by Hans Meyerhoff
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Contents

Translator's Preface vii
Translator's Introduction ix
Author's Preface 3
Introduction: The Concept of Man 5
I The Stages of Psychophysical Life in Plant, Animal and Man 8
II The Essence of Spirit 35
III Spirit and Life 56
IV Philosophical Anthropology and Religion 88
Notes 97
Index 101
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Man’s Place in Nature is Max Scheler’s last work, and represents the final phase of his philosophical world-view. Here he summarizes his ideas on philosophical anthropology—the culmination of his lifelong preoccupation with the questions: “What is man?” and “What is man’s place in the nature of things?”

Scheler (1874-1928)—who, with Husserl, launched the phenomenological movement during the first quarter of this century—is known to English readers largely by reputation and through the few works which have been translated. In this volume, Scheler’s superb intellect, his deep commitment to empirical research and his genius for metaphysical ideas combine to analyze the essential structure of man. Scheler here explores the problems of what we mean by “life” in nature; the stages of organization found in the development of living beings; the traits of life at these stages; the unique characteristics of man in the evolutionary structure. Perhaps most important, he asks what kind of problems emerge, for philosophy and science, from this over-all survey.

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