

启示与美

——读巴尔塔萨《神学美学导论》

Apocalypse and Beauty

——Remarks on *Introducing Theological*

Aesthetics by Balthasar

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[**Abstract**] The legitimization of Aesthetics as an independent discipline was one of the great achievements of the Enlightenment. Since then, the discipline has embarked on a path of absolute autonomy, one that is not without peril. Thinkers had hoped that Beauty and the Arts would cure the malaise of modernity. But reality has proven them wrong. Perhaps Friedrich Holderlin's diagnosis is right: the absence of God in Aesthetics' quest to redeem the world is its major cause for failure. Thus the new prescription proposed by the Swiss Roman Catholic theologian, Balthasar, is to return to God. This essay analyzes and critiques the key concepts in Balthasar's *Introducing Theological Aesthetics* in hope of uncovering the wealth of philosophical and spiritual resources that theology can offer contemporary life and society.