

论弗兰克的宗教伦理学

The Religious Ethic of Franke

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[英文提要]

Franke, a Russian philosopher of religion, was not a member of the Eastern Orthodox Church of Russia. But being deeply disturbed by the moral depravity of his day, he concentrated his efforts in the reconstruction of a Christian ethic. The Christian ethic is a key component of his religious philosophy, and has its roots in a religious worldview. Upon this foundation, Franke built a well-integrated ethical system. Central to this system is the two-fold principle of Franke's Christian ethic—the formation of the human spirit based upon the Christian faith on the one hand, and human behavior determined by a Christian ethic of this-worldly engagement on the other. This two-fold principle arises from the belief that the God-given presence of man with God and in God is to be realized within a morally darkened environment that is not from God. Applied to daily Christian living, this two-fold principle offers definitive guidance to one's value system on the one hand, and practical instruction to one's conduct on the other. In Franke's philosophy of ethics, we hear the call of God where he expects and encourages man to live morally. There is a sense of helplessness in view of the

tyranny of evil. But there is also courage and activism in the call to overcome evil with good—a goodness that comes out of a love that is knowledgeable, a love that restrains through reason. Man is not called to wait passively for God's final redemptive act. It is man's duty to confront evil in the world; he is called to do his best to promote what is good and restrain what is evil.

在19—20世纪之交,一批俄罗斯的知识分子从马克思主义走向基督教,他们想通过基督教拯救人们的灵魂,从而拯救俄罗斯民族。C. 弗兰克(C. Frank)是其中的著名代表。与别尔嘉耶夫(H. Berdyaev)一样,他属于俄国教会外的宗教哲学家。这一派哲学家力图革新教会,创造新说,从而使俄国的教会改变依附于国家的地位,发挥其应有的作用。与别尔嘉耶夫相比,弗兰克更加热衷于新的宗教哲学的建设,他的大部分著作皆属宗教哲学,其中宗教伦理学占有显著的位置。

一、有感于时代的道德沦丧

弗兰克生于一个大动乱的时代,一次大战之后紧接着俄国革命,再过二十年又来了二次大战。在四十年的时间里,他经受了許多苦难,看到恶在大地上横行,黑暗布满世界,特别深切地体验到人类的道德之沦丧。他看到善之无力,仿佛“它在经验世界是不可能实现的,它在生命的盲目力量面前是软弱无力,这些盲目力量把它驱赶到世界之外的某个遥远的深处。”^① 具体说来,“四十年中……,布尔什维克的革命及其所建立的制度是在卑贱的肉体范围

^① 弗兰克:《生命的意义》,徐风林译,见《俄国知识人与精神偶像》,学林出版社,1999,第223页。