

Summary of the doctoral dissertation

Paweł Zaborowski - Quantum Spirituality. A study of common knowledge

The work aims to analyze and understand the phenomenon of quantum spirituality. It is a contemporary movement in the field of spiritual culture, which combines the motifs of quantum physics and new forms of spirituality. First of all, linguistic ideas about the world, man and science were analyzed, in which the knowledge of quantum physics becomes an important component. In order to understand the phenomenon of quantum spirituality, it was placed in the context of studies on post-secular society and culture, common knowledge and contemporary, secularized mythologies.

The first chapter is devoted to the post-secular paradigm. It presents alternative approaches to the theory of secularization, on the basis of which one's own understanding of spirituality is proposed - as a functional practice of organizing meaning. Spirituality understood in this way is embedded in the context of sociological studies (concerning primarily individual culture and the market approach to religion) and psychological studies (emphasizing the evolutionary and existential functions performed by spirituality).

The second chapter is devoted to research methodology. It begins with a discussion of the specificity of the qualitative research paradigm, which leads to the conclusion that the study of new and incomprehensible phenomena requires not only knowledge of the theoretical approaches developed so far, but also good orientation in the research material itself. They require taking into account its specificity when conceptualizing research, planning its course and selecting analysis tools. In the next part of the chapter, the most important contexts of cultural linguistics and studies on the linguistic image of the world are presented; on their basis, research procedures are formulated, focused on the analysis of lexis, profiling and evaluation processes using language, as well as syntactic and semantic procedures that serve their implementation. The chapter ends with the presentation of the most important ethical problems related to the study of the phenomenon of quantum spirituality, resulting from its pseudo-scientific and anti-scientific character.

The following 3 chapters are analytical in nature. The first chapter concerns the cosmology of quantum spirituality, and the subject of the analysis presented in it are: monistic ideas about the existence of "sacred" energy, additional spatial and cosmic dimensions, as well as the place that man occupies within the cosmology of quantum spirituality. The chapter ends with an analysis of two aspects of the image of the world - its mythological form and its textual presentation modeled on scientific discourses.

The second chapter is devoted to the anthropology of quantum spirituality and focuses on the most important issues related to the vision of man. The first big topic is the image of the brain and consciousness, which turn out to be an example of a psychologicalized vision of the soul and - in a different perspective - a sacralized vision of the psyche. The second important topic is the spiritual development of man and his existence, understood as a way of spiritual purification. The third great topic is the phenomenon of healing, which in quantum spirituality is understood as a form of manipulating life-giving energy, which creates an alternative image to academic medicine and is based on the mythological understanding of the role of man in the whole cosmos.

The third analytical chapter is devoted to various aspects of science that appear in the collected material. Statements on the change of the scientific paradigm and the role that quantum physics would play in this process were analyzed. On this occasion, the image of the "new physics" specific to quantum spirituality is recreated. The second part of the chapter deals with scientific stylizations used to imitate the discourse of science and to authenticate alternative to academic theses and ideas. The last part of this chapter is an attempt to show that quantum spirituality presents itself as an expert system, wishing to convince readers to its authority through various linguistic and textual manipulations, devaluing the image of science and affirming the image of itself.

The last chapter is a summary and presents the most important conclusions from the conducted analyses. First of all, quantum spirituality is juxtaposed with the currents of neo-positivism, scientism and non-classical analyzes of the phenomenon of science in order to demonstrate its specific difference from each of them. Next, quantum spirituality is placed in the context of two social processes typical of individualized culture: (1) the crisis of trust in knowledge and (2) the search for social experts. In the

further part of the chapter, the image of the world of quantum spirituality is interpreted as functionally and formally mythological, and thus - abounding in simplifications, colloquial and anthropocentric categorizations. Ultimately, quantum spirituality is interpreted as a system of common knowledge - especially in terms of its formal and structural features - which affirms anthropocentrism, a simplified categorization of all phenomena, their common-sense understanding. The final conclusion from the whole work is the claim that quantum spirituality - despite the use of motifs from the new physics - uses common schemes, using them to create a system of knowledge about mythological and para-religious features, and above all common ones.

The discussion on the relationship between science and religion has been invariably present since the clarification of these two types of knowledge and social practice. Also today we observe various attempts to separate and synthesize them. Quantum spirituality is a specific participant in such a debate, affecting the consciousness of the average reader. Her texts are a recorded record of a certain type of mentality, which is increasingly marking its presence in contemporary culture. The image of science is significantly shallower in the analyzed material and is re-profiled in a specific way. This process has an impact on shaping the common consciousness, consolidating in it certain schemes and ideas about what science is, what role quantum physics plays in its image, and whether it has any connection with religion. This work is an attempt at a synthesising approach to this phenomenon, and its main goal is to create a description that, despite recognizing quantum spirituality as quasi-scientific, will help to understand its role in shaping common ideas about what science is.

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