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Reviews

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(Ms. Tamara Hackett DVM)

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GRIN Verlag. Paperback. Book Condition: New. Paperback. 40 pages. Dimensions: 8.5in. x 5.5in. x 0.1in.Seminar paper from the year 2006 in the subject Philosophy - Philosophy of the Present, grade: 1, 7, University of Osnabrck, course: Philosophie, language: English, comment: Without symbol mankind has lost the identity and therefore the symbolic way of life is so extraordinary interesting in philosophy an specially in Cassierers-philosophy, abstract: Seeing shadows like the prisoners in the cave of Platos simile1, thats what life of man would be like if he had not the symbol. Without symbols, mans life would be confined within the limits of his biological needs and his practical interests, thus not differentiating himself from other species2. In his Essay on Man, Ernst Cassirer examines mans efforts to understand himself and to deal with the problems of his universe through a creation and use of symbols. He analyzes the major symbolic forms of human enterprise: Language, Myth, Art, Religion, History, and Science. He discusses these subjects with the help of great thinkers of all times, making annotations on what, in each moment, these persons thought. He explains the point of view of Philosophers, Biologists, Naturalists, Physicists etc, and interprets them in a very unique way, to make the reader understand his point. He goes from Heraclitus to Kierkegaard and Einstein. This essay is a good synthesis of the ability of man to resolve human problems by the simple use of his mind through symbols. 3 I have chosen three chapters that caught my attention. I will synthesize what for me is a symbol by looking into chapter II, A clue to the nature of man: the Symbol and chapter III, From animal reactions to human responses. . . . 1 Cassirer, Essay on Man. P 41 2 idem. P. 41 3...



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