

From Social Trinity to "Linguistic Trinity": Sergii Bulgakov's contribution to analytic theology

Nikolaos Asproulis, Vice Director of the Volos Academy

Abstract

In his early *The Philosophy of the Name* and *The Tragedy of Philosophy*, Sergii Bulgakov exploits a trinitarian approach to reality starting from a tripartite understanding of the proposition "I am A"=subject-copula-predicate. In this paper an attempt is made to use this logical-grammatical exploration as a means to struggle with the "logical problem of the Trinity," much discussed in the context of contemporary analytic theology. After briefly describing the relevance of analytic thought for modern Orthodox theology as well as reviewing the dominant views on the Trinity (e.g. the Greek/social and the Latin), the paper will focus on Bulgakov's "linguistic trinity" in relation to "Material Constitution" theory as represented by Michael Rea and Jeffrey Brower in order to justify his view as a valuable, although unintended, Eastern-Orthodox contribution to contemporary philosophy of religion.