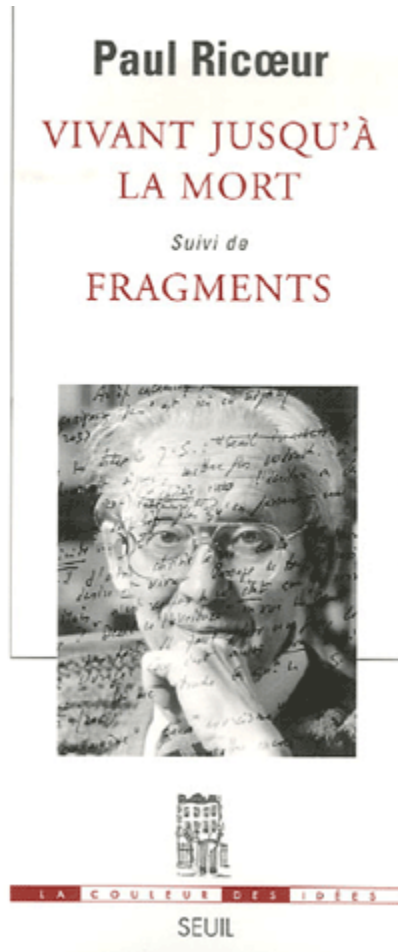


From Ipseity to Kenosis: Reflections on Ricoeur's Itinerary to the Face-to-Face



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Abstract: In *Living Up to Death*, Ricoeur speaks of “renouncing the *ipse* for a preparation for death” (49). Renouncing *ipse* introduces a mode of living in the order of *I cannot*, of *kenosis*. It is in this passing from *I am* and *I can* to *I cannot*, or *kenosis*, that love of the other is unconditionally generous. Ricoeur calls this “the transfer [*le transfer*, ‘the transference’] of the love of life to the other” (42): a paradoxical language for the face-to-face. Life, death, and the other appear connected in *Living Up to Death* by a strangely told love, namely one that psychoanalytical, spiritual, and phenomenological languages (the language of transference, of *kenosis*, of face-to-face) proclaim unverifiably as “stronger than death”—our vocation.

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