

Giulia Paola Di Nicola

il linguaggio della madre

aspetti
sociologici e
antropologici
della
maternità



Giulia Paola Di Nicola,
*Il linguaggio della madre. Aspetti
sociologici e antropologici (Mother's
Language. Anthropological and
Sociological Aspects),*
Città Nuova, Roma 1994

The topics of parenthood are important issues of human development. At the centre there is woman in her attitude to bear and care for life. This text gives existential and intellectual inputs on maternity, without going down into rhetorical expressions, keeping a plain and sometimes poetic language. It starts from the problems linked to the change of a woman's body and psyche, with its fragility and its force, the need to be supported and the ability to give love. The author however goes beyond maternity's phenomenology and, just starting from experience, proposes the elaboration of a maternal code, that is of the typical language of woman, whose body suggests communication and gift of self in order to generate a son. In general terms she becomes a source of life not only of her son but of the human atmosphere around her, generating culture and vital sense. The mother who elaborates what her body and her maternity experience mean enters in tune with the dumb language of her body and transforms it in a compass guideline of ethics.

Regarding this code of life, it is important to understand it not as just something specific for women, but as an ethical paradigm visible in femininity, but universal, that is valid

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for all people and at all the levels: in family, vital worlds, politics, Church. This book, with its interdisciplinary aspects, picks up the various possible interpretations of this maternal code, ranging from the psychological sphere to other anthropological, social, cultural, and spiritual ones, without separating these different spheres because maternity asks for an integral horizon.

Many questions come to mind when theology is touched (what does it mean that God is mother? Is there a feminine dimension in God-Trinity? Is there analogical evidence in the Trinitarian processions such as in relationships between man and woman?).

The book offers its contribution to face these eternal questions starting from the elaboration of that maternal code that speeds up to give a new birth to the world.

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