

Piero Giordanetti

Kant as a Poetic Philosopher

Conference at the Università degli Studi di Milano,
July 2014

During this conference, the project of Kant as a poetic philosopher was presented. The project focuses upon making inquiries into the relations between Kantian philosophy and poetry. In the *Anthropology*, it is stated that: “poetic speech preceded good prose in all peoples [...] Poetry was a very great leap of human genius [...] insofar as all concepts were subsumed under images [...] for this reason, it is to be understood how, in all peoples, a type of poetry constituted the beginning and that eloquence came later.” An investigation that considers relations to poets that Kant had read and valued during his lifetime is thus a goal of this research. Sometimes Kant uses images and verses from his favorite poets without citing them directly. Sometimes he cites them explicitly. Homer, Horace, Lucretius, Milton, Pope, Shakespeare, Virgil, and Wieland are often mentioned in Kant’s writings. An interpretation of Kantian philosophy will thus be quite enriched by looking at this subject. – Piero Giordanetti is in charge of the project.