“VIENS!”: ON MAURICE BLANCHOT’S PRAYERS AND PROMISES

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Subject(s): Language and Literature Studies
Published by: Editura Universităţii din Bucureşti
Keywords: Maurice Blanchot; prayers; atheism; come [viens!]; prayer [prière]; promise [promesse]
Summary/Abstract: The essay attempts to explore a highly controversial issue, that of Maurice Blanchot’s alleged atheism, and partially contradict it. Starting from Caputo’s proposal to look for Derrida’s prayers and tears, and investigating several Blanchotian récits, it similarly and persistently asks the Augustinian question on the French philosopher and literary theorist: “what do I love when I love my God?”. My aim is to find out who Blanchot’s God was and such a critical analysis resorts to a threefold
structure based on one of Blanchot's keywords (viens!- come), on what I tentatively called prière (prayer, praying, begging), and a final promesse (promise).