



“Essence” (Wesenheit, Washeit) and “Bearer” (Träger) in Hedwig Conrad-Martius (1888–1966)

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Conrad-Martius' idea of reality assumes a fundamental structure of the real being. This structure is composed of two inseparable constituents: the essence (*die Washeit*) and the “bearer” (*Träger*) upon which the essence is “loaded”. While the former embodies what she calls the “whatness” of the thing, the latter indicates the content of the real being. She establishes that when the essence constitutes itself, it personally carries a bearer, which is the filling with content of the real being, or alternatively the real is that which carries the essence that belongs to it and specifies it fundamentally. Indeed, the bearer is specified by the essence that is uploaded onto it and by which it exists. At the same time, the essence is carried to the extent that it specifies its bearer. Finally, the function of carrying is based on pure and “formal relations that cannot be destroyed” (1924: 223) to the extent that they should be regarded as “formally pointing out each other” and as “coming into being at the same time” (1924: 172).

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