

Title: The Strangeness of Christ in V.V. Rozanov's "Protestant" Poetics
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V.V. Rozanov's literary output is vast – his collected anthology only recently concluded publication at 30 volumes – and remarkably diverse. It includes, among others things, a monumental philosophical treatise, endless personal correspondences, outstanding and original literary criticism, innumerable journal articles, theological essays and political commentaries, and, of course, the later aphoristic, confessional publications that made Rozanov famous throughout Russia. My study examines a small, but very important, portion of these works: the writer's publicistic pieces from 1906 to 1910. I focus on the "strange" Jesus Christ who regularly appears in Rozanov's articles from the appearance of "Tserkovno-obshchestvennoe dvizhenie" in 1906 through the publication of *V temnykh religioznikh luchakh* in 1910.

During this four-year period, the reader consistently encounters a Christ at once familiar and unfamiliar, known and yet unknown. We recognize His words but discover in them new, untraditional, discomfiting meanings; we discern His Biblical image but do so amidst an odd and unsettling spiritual landscape, one grounded in (and yet far removed from) the Church's traditional historical and liturgical presentation. This is not to say that Rozanov's is a Christ separated from His traditional Divinity. To the contrary, it is Rozanov's insistence on Christ the God-man, the Word made flesh, that intensifies the "strangeness" of his theology: Christ remains the Son of God, yet He and His religion are somehow estranged from God the Father. Rozanov then uses this 'estranged' Jesus Christ to lend Biblical authority to his own original religious schemes.

Apart from these theological problems, the study also addresses the formal literary processes by which Rozanov crafts his unusual Christ, giving special attention to the set of devices that form the writer's unique 'Protestant Poetics'

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