



Studia Ecologiae et Bioethicae
year: 2010, vol.:8 number: 2, pages: 121-135

Zbigniew Lepko

Uniwersytet Kardynała Stefana Wyszyńskiego, Instytut Ekologii i Bioetyki, ul. Wóycickiego 1/3, 01-938 Warsaw, Poland.

lepko@pro.onet.pl

**THE ENVIRONMENTAL SIGNIFICANCE OF
THE DIALECTIC OF ENLIGHTENMENT**

(Ekologiczna wymowa dialektyki oświecenia)

Keywords: DIALECTIC OF ENLIGHTENMENT, MAN, ECOLOGY, BIOETHICS

Abstract; The title of this paper relates directly to the celebrated work of Max Horkheimer and Theodor W. Adorno: *Dialektik der Aufklärung. Philosophische Fragmente*. It shows as on dialectical, because the ideas associated with engage the rational mastery of the world from the degeneration of the practical ideas in increasingly sophisticated forms of man's dominion over man. Ecological interpretation of such understanding of the dialectic of Enlightenment gives it a modern expression in the sense that it points to one of the most pressing contemporary problems, born of the mythical inspiration functioning of enlightened reason, and today, in the name of being a man claiming to be his task to demythologise reality. Broadly speaking, in the name of human freedom the idea is to overcome the enlightenment tradition of freedom, or its' degeneration in more subtle forms of practical denial. This study follows this line of reasoning and expresses the conviction that today appears to illustrate the dialectic of enlightenment in environmental and bioethical issues.