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Abstracts

MARIALUISA BALDI, «Ex minimis omnia humana constant». Aspetti della riflessione sull'uomo di Girolamo Cardano

According to his own words, Cardano's great achievement in moral philosophy is the equality in conditions of all living beings, including the humans. Human nature, as the whole of nature, undergoes the «*vicissitudo rerum ac mutatio*» and recurses in cycle; it is under necessity and out of finality. This is the reason why the human being can benefit by adversities, as Cardano shows in different ways in all his moral works, mainly since 1561. Elaborating on this assumption, the article deals with Cardano's typical tenet in morals: in nature order the man is a minimum and his happiness depends on minima. In the background of the medieval and Renaissance tradition of «*minima naturalia*», Cardano discusses similarities and crossing points in moral and natural philosophy. Like first matter, human nature can take every shape and form. Like water and earth, happiness is a quasi-natural element, an homogeneous which is the one and the same in the whole and its parts, in the various mixtures of moral life. Both in the natural and in the moral mixtures, the qualities may change; hence a benefit may turn in an adversity, and the other way round. Moreover, since naturalia are concerned with lower and upper limits, the man is able to make calculations with the aim to compensate qualities for their quantities, and vice versa. However the form does not depend on the quality: it does not depend on the matter, even if acting on it. Moral transmutation, i.e. moral improvement, lies in virtue and wisdom. In the search of them both, the man is at risk of his own perdition.