

Marie-Élise Zovko, Zagreb

**Abfall von der Idee.
Repercussions of Baader's Russian Expedition
in Hegel's *Encyclopedia***

“So ist die Natur auch als der Abfall der Idee von sich selbst ausgesprochen worden, indem die Idee als diese Gestalt der Äußerlichkeit in der Unangemessenheit ihrer selbst mit sich ist.”

Concept of Nature, *Encyclopedia* (1830), § 248

In the first Preface to the *Encyclopedia*, Hegel boasts having established a system whose method will be recognized as “the single true” one, insofar as it is “identical with the content.”¹ With regard to religion, whose “content”, he says, is “the same” as the content of philosophical reflection, this identity raises serious difficulties, as Franz von Baader (1765–1841) saw.

The second preface to the *Encyclopedia* is preoccupied almost in its entirety with the relationship of religion and philosophy. In it, Hegel devotes several pages to Baader. Baader won Hegel's friendship and admiration by his insistence that religion could not gain the respect of its adherents and its practice would not flourish unless one undergirded it with a “reasonable theory” and unless one granted free and scientific research of its doctrinal content.² Hegel's views regarding the proper relationship of philosophy and religious doctrine assume definitive form during the years of his friendship with Baader and their exchange on this topic leaves an incisive mark on the later editions of the *Encyclopedia*.

Baader and Hegel make one another's personal acquaintance through Baron Boris von Uexküll (1793–1870), a Russian student of Hegel's from Estonia, and forge a permanent friendship during Baader's two visits to Berlin in the course of his ill-fated expedition to St. Petersburg in 1822/1823. The journey was undertaken by Baader and Uexküll in the hopes of convincing Alexander I of Baader's idea to found an academy dedicated to reunification of religion and politics,

¹ G. W. F. Hegel, *Enzyklopädie der philosophischen Wissenschaften im Grundrisse* (1830), TWA 8, Frankfurt a. M. 1970, 11.

² *Ibid.*, 27f.