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TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

I met Dr Erman Kaplama last year during an international conference organised by the History of Ideas Research Group at the University of Sydney. I listened to his paper with immense interest and intellectual benefit while afterwards I had the opportunity to meet with him and discuss the central parameters of his philosophical project.

I immediately understood his solid academic ethos, profound philosophical reflection and extremely lucid arguments. Dr Kaplama is a young philosopher but with extensive and multi-dimensional knowledge of the history of philosophy and the perennial questions of the Western intellectual tradition.

After our first meeting, I also had the opportunity to read his recent book *Cosmological Aesthetics through the Kantian Sublime and Nietzschean Dionysian* which I consider as one of the most innovative, radical and yet thoughtful explorations of certain constant questions of philosophy across the centuries. The book help me understand Dr Kaplama's thinking as a coherent whole with its own specific principles and distinct syllogistic methodologies.

Dr Kaplama's thinking combines analytical skills and synthesising judgment, together with the ability to elaborate his topics from a variety of perspectives and hermeneutical positions. His book moves with ease and deep knowledge from the ancient Greek philosophy to the modern death-of-philosophy thinkers, like Nietzsche and Heidegger, exploring the ramifications of their philosophical quest and evaluating their relevance to our contemporary thinking.

His chapter on Immanuel Kant is destined to become a classic investigation of the Kantian sublime and its influence on subsequent thinking. Also his exploration of Heideggerian aesthetics is also of immense significance and I would suggest that it has to be expanded into an independent monograph. Finally, the ultimate chapter, and its discussion of Van Gogh's painting *The Starry night* is one of the most thought-provoking, inspiring and path-breaking analyses of a work of art from a philosophical point of view I have read for many decades. It is a short masterpiece which can by itself be considered as a major contribution to the philosophical understanding of art, both agreeing and departing from the famous essay by Martin Heidegger on another painting by Van Gogh.

In conclusion, I would like to stress that Dr Kaplama's work is already significant and promises to become one of the most admirable achievements by any scholar of his generation. His other published studies exploring topics wavering between ethics, aesthetics and cosmology show the immense breath of thinking and research found in his developing work. I recommend his work whole-heartedly and without any reservations. Dr Kaplama will be an asset to any school or department of philosophy throughout the world. His work covers an immense area of philosophical tradition and he will therefore be an excellent teacher of philosophy, a *philosophe*, combining the moral concerns of Enlightenment and the aesthetical quest of contemporary philosophy, in the tradition of Nietzsche, Heidegger, Gadamer, Vattimo and Rorty.

His contribution to all levels of philosophical dialogue in our age will be of profound effect and I expect some truly great works to be published by him in the near future.

Sincerely Yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Vrasidas Karalis', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Vrasidas Karalis

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