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*A Wrong Conception of Reason and the Solid Rock: The Debate that Never Was between Maximilian Beck and Dorion Cairns*

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In the present essay an attempt will be made at quickly reconstructing the debate between Dorion Cairns and the Munich phenomenologist Maximilian Beck, which bears on Husserl's last published work, i.e., the *Crisis of European Sciences and Transcendental Phenomenology*. What is at stake is the value of Husserl's phenomenology, with a focus upon the concepts of reason and rationality. As will be argued, the discussion between the two concerns the distinction, and relevant articulation, between what can be called "transcendental" and "ontological" rationality respectively. In so doing, this paper aims at both interpreting a crucial moment in the history of 20th century phenomenology and bringing attention back to the life and work of Max Beck.