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*Die Weltanschauung zwischen Ideenflucht und Wahnsinnigkeit*

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It is generally recognized that Karl Jaspers was the first to define the three main criteria for a belief to be considered delusional: certainty, incorrigibility and impossibility of content. But the fundamental point for Jaspers is that we have to think of delusion not as an isolated phenomenon but as a modification of the way we live in the world, or – in Heideggerian words – of our being-in-the-world. Which kind of event could explain such a modification? Our human life is structured by worldviews, which are not mere “views” or theoretical representations but basically also moods that give its specific aspect and coherence to the world, and these worldviews provide a shelter against the evanescence of all things. Our thesis is that confronted to a traumatic experience, the fragilization of a worldview is able to produce its implosion or petrification, i.e. flight of ideas or delusion, which forbids the openness to others and to life in its unpredictability.