

Michele Gardini
Sartre: Images of Bad Faith

The article focuses on young Sartre's studies on the faculty of imagination, carried out in works like *The Imagination* (1936) and first of all *The Imagery* (1939). In the first part of the article, the specific characters Sartre attributes to the image, structurally contrasting it with perception, are progressively developed and illustrated: its essential poorness, lack of surprises, monotony, which altogether seem to justify its being judged by the philosopher as a «degraded form of consciousness». The second half of the study points out how such a form of degraded consciousness may at the same time be for Sartre – quite paradoxically – the seal of human transcendental freedom, trying to put this double and contrasting feature in relationship with the anthropological notion of «eccentricity»: the character of a man who constantly has to carry out his existence in a world, projecting himself upon it and «never being what he is, nor being what he isn't».