



Aporia
The philosophy club at UTPA
Presents
A Friday Dialogue:
“Socrates in Hamann and Kierkegaard”
By
Dr. Stephen Leach
Friday, November 9, 2007
4:00 pm
SBS 101

Both Kierkegaard and Hamann took Socrates seriously. Hamann's estimation is evident in the choice of a "memorabilia" to Socrates as a vehicle for refuting the philosophical views of two of his most esteemed and credible friends, and as a defense of his own religious conversion against their more "enlightened" views. For Kierkegaard, who publicly acknowledges Socrates as his teacher, the 'simple wise man' revealed, in the words of a pseudonymous author, the "highest" human possibility, "the true relation between one human being and another." This essay shows how Socrates functions for each author in two important regards, and forwards the hypothesis that what both authors have most in common is exemplified in their treatments of him. First, it shows how each author utilized their own particular version of Socrates to counter the prevailing philosophical views of their respective ages: in Hamann's case, to combat Kant, and in Kierkegaard's, to battle Hegel. Second, it shows how each, although they considered the Socratic model the acme of philosophical endeavor, still each found even this model inadequate when compared to the deeper truths of the Christian religion.

For special accommodations please contact us at www.myspace.com/aporiapanam