The Problem and Promise of Phenomenology: Jonas’s Lecture on Husserl and Heidegger

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In his 1963 lecture on his teachers Edmund Husserl and Martin Heidegger, Jonas provides not so much a scholarly account as a tale of two philosophers—of their relationship, its collapse, and its challenge to the possibility of philosophy today. Additionally, unlike in his other texts on Husserl (from which he draws quite closely; see texts 13, 19, and 20 in KGA III/2), Jonas does not shy from critiquing his erstwhile professor in his lecture, which is revealing for the direction in which Jonas himself takes phenomenology. In my presentation I discuss each of these issues in turn.