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“Oikonomikos” in Ancient Greece: tension between difference and community

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<Abstract>

This article analyses the concept of Transcultural Management from the viewpoint of ancient Greek philosophy. First, “transculture” means respect for a variety of ways of thinking and looking at the world. Greek philosophers revealed that “differences” in cultures or societies presuppose a “universality” that underlies such differences. Next, their discussion of “*oikonomikos*” (household management) treats “house” as a minimal unit of human community, which already involves the tension of forming a community out of different elements. Thus, Transcultural Management turns out to be the pursuit of good human life through the interweaving of difference, universality, and community.

<Keywords>

*oikonomikos*, Greek philosophy, difference, community, universality