

A Simplified Commentary on the Summa

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Figure 1: St Thomas Aquinas

We would like to dedicate this work to the following people:

Aron:

Aron response file not found!

Joseph:

To those who have taught me what it is to be loved.

Will:

In gratitude for the formation that I have been so blessed to receive. “You received without pay, give without pay.” (Matt. 10:8)

“In the evening of life, we will be judged on love alone.”

St. John of the Cross

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# Chapter 1

## Introduction

The objective of this document is to provide a guide for a newcomer to philosophy through Saint Thomas Aquinas' Magnum Opus, *Summa Theologiae*. This document was written by novices in the field, and therefore, facilitates to their growth as well as the reader's. Therefore, the commentaries are not rigorous or dense, but rather, should provide a more digestible reading experience for the lay man.<sup>1</sup>

### 1.1 The Philosophical Preliminary Foundation

The modern foundations of knowledge are based on empirical evidence. While there is nothing wrong with this as a framework for knowledge there are some notable drawbacks when one attempts to study a work like the *Summa Theologiae*. Whereas the contemporary educational system places emphasis on grammar, mathematics, and science. The medieval tradition of education was more naturally steeped in the liberal arts.<sup>2</sup> Education for the medievals began with *trivium* of grammar, logic, and rhetoric as the foundational courses.

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1. I was clearly hungry when writing this.

2. Liberal arts reveal an important notion within the name. They are called such because they are the free arts. These are the types of practices that one is able to enter into when every moment does not have to be dedicated to survival and you have free time.

Students would later progress to the *quadrivium* of arithmetic, geometry, music, and astronomy. Eventually allowing students to progress to philosophy and then theology. Now, why does this matter? This is important because it explains the prerequisites that St. Thomas Aquinas is presuming of his students while writing the *Summa Theologiae*. The *Summa Theologiae* is the textbook for students studying theology. Since we are not formed in the same educational system, it is often difficult for casual readers to pick up the *Summa Theologiae* as a cold starting point. Let's consider some of the notable aspects of this educational system, in order to avoid the mistake of trying to study nuclear physics without having any concept of atoms.<sup>3</sup>

**Importance of Logic** The *trivium*, foundation of all sciences,<sup>4</sup> is the language through which one is able to understand how Aquinas is forming ideas. While it is certainly my hope that the audience for this project through their technical background are naturally predisposed to engage with the logic of the work, it is still important to outline some of the basics of Aristotelian logic in order to ensure a common framework. Largely thanks to the advancements in mathematics and computing, the main understanding and engagement with logic is through, what it is called in philosophical language, symbolic logic. The idea of this logic is that you have variables through which you are able to perform discrete operations on in order to express arguments in a simplistic mathematical manner. The challenge with this is that mathematical operations can lead to contradictions in comparison to how language operates. Thus symbolic logic is incredibly powerful in computing where every operation is

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3. Disclaimer: as an author I am squarely a product of the contemporary STEM focused educational system more than I am a product of the Traditional Liberal Arts. Some may find this appealing, others will likely be annoyed by various grammatical errors in my writings. I apologize for this and hope that the errors will decrease over the duration of the project. It took typecasting writing into computer programming for me to truly have any interest in this art, which says a lot about my approach.

4. This will be the more encompassing use of the term science as Aquinas would have used it. Which means science refers to topics of study rather than empirical investigations. In this view, theology is the highest science because it grasps the highest most perfect truth and object of study (i.e. God). As God is the Creator, God is also beyond His creation, thus empirical knowledge of God is not logically possible. This last part is putting the cart in front of the horse as we will cover this very shortly in the *Summa*.

reducible to pure binary. While it would not be facetious to engage with the *Summa* from this framework, it would also not be in the spirit of how the author is forming arguments. As such, continuing to review the principles of Aristotelian logic will be important for this project.

**The Ten Categories** The foundation of Aristotelian logic is the ten categories. You have likely heard of these in different settings, but they are important as many of the misunderstandings with the Summa derive from faulty perceptions of the ten categories. To begin the ten categories are subdivided into two different sets. The first being that of substance. Substance is actually both one of the categories and an entire subset containing only itself. The second subset is accidents. The accident subset is composed of the remaining nine categories. Admittedly even this description is a simplification for more in-depth discussions consider the following article: <https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/aristotle-categories>

A Substance - Defines the whatness of entities.

1. Substance - The term substance is actually divided into two: primary and secondary substance. In short, substance deals with what something is.
  - i Primary substance - is an individual. The example that you, the reader, are an individual human.<sup>5</sup> Primary substance is not human, but you specifically as in the individual who is called *INSERT YOUR NAME*. Likewise you may have a dog or a cat who would likewise be a primary substance.
  - ii Secondary substance - is the universal nature that the individual is. For instance: human, cat, or dog are all terms that indicate a secondary substance.

***iii Important metaphysical note: There is only one case in which primary and secondary substances are one and the same. That***

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5. Presuming AI or other computer programs are not parsing over this text.

*is with God. This is true as God is entirely one and yet the term God also describes the secondary universal properties of God.*

B Accidents - Define non-essential properties of entities.

2. Quantity - how many substances are present. As in you may have two dogs. The number present is not a requirement of their existence. 1
3. Quality - Age, loudness, fitness, etc. are all the accidental qualities that adhere within the substance.
4. Relation - Are the dogs siblings from the same litter or are they simply became friends in relation by having the same owner?
5. Place - Where are the dogs? Are they sleeping in the living room, standing in the kitchen, or at the vet clinic?
6. Time - Everything that we experience exists in time. Thus we can describe the dog as it was at 1 year, 2 years, etc.
7. Position - Is the dog walking on your left hand side? If so then the position of the dog can be described as to your left. This is subject to change and therefore an accidental property.
8. Possession - Is the dog playing with a ball? Did it fetch a stick or a newspaper? We would describe the dog as having possession of these items.
9. Action - Is the dog running, sleeping, or eating? It is capable of action, but not capable of doing all three of the examples simultaneously.
10. Passivity - Is the dog sick? It is capable of being acted upon. As in it could be struck for example by a falling branch, and thus having been struck. The idea that this is something that befell the substance and not of necessity.

**Relationship of Matter and Form** One final note to conclude this brief summary of Aristotelian philosophy. One of the early debates of Greek philosophy, of which the influences thereof are present in mass throughout the *Summa*, is how to explain the nature of individual substances. In short, why are there humans, dogs, and cats, amongst so many more? Various elemental answers were proposed but the two most prevailing, that continue to influence contemporary philosophy, are those of Plato and Aristotle. Platos solution to this problem was to propose the realm of the Forms. Through this proposal the highest end of life was identified to be contemplation of the Forms. Every physical entity is said to be an image or instantiation of the form in matter. Matter is the principle of existence by which an individual is differentiated. Accordingly, matter is considered to be akin to a dirty and faulty medium as we come to identity defects from the forms. Defects from a Form is called a privation, as in a three legged dog would be described as having a privation because of the missing leg. Important aspects of this philosophy are present in key passages of the *Summa*, however, the divide between interpreting Aquinas along Platonic or Aristotelian lines is one of the most active sources of debate amongst contemporary Thomists.<sup>6</sup> Aristotle, the student of Plato, proposes a different solution of *hylomorphism*.<sup>7</sup> The key distinction is that the Form does not reside solely in the abstract realm, but instead is present in the primary substance. Thus an individual substance is composed of matter and form. The form being the principle that gives definition to the matter. The question of what is matter in these systems as a principle of pure potency is an interesting question, but one that is beyond the scope of this introduction. The topic will likely be explored over the course of the project, feel free to ask questions about it though if interested.

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6. For those interested, I have an example that I like to use comparing Platos theory of the Forms to Java, the object based programming language. As an analogy it works surprisingly well.

7. The combination of the Greek terms for matter and form.

# **Chapter 2**

## **Introduction to the Summa**

### **2.1 Structure of the work**

#### **Part I Prima Pars**

God's existence, nature, and creation (including angels, humanity).

#### **Part II Secunda Pars**

Moral theology, human action, virtues, and law, further split into two sections (Prima Secundae and Secunda Secundae).

#### **Part III Tertia Pars**

Christ, the sacraments, and humanity's return to God (incomplete)

## 2.2 Question Structure

A Question is a collection of questions has the following structure.

### Question (Quaestio)

A specific theological problem is posed.

### Article

A subset of the question that provides the user with higher specificity.

### Objections (Objectiones)

Arguments against Aquinas's eventual position. Until I find a better "author" for these I shall refer to them as anti-Aquinas/anti-Thomas. A common argumentative fallacy is that of straw manning your opponent. In this fallacy, the debater constructs a weak poor representation of their opponents position and then refutes this instead of their opponents true position. What Aquinas does with Objections is the opposite, in that he is steel manning his opponent's position. By describing his opponent's position better than most of them may be able to do he is able to truly and accurately refute the position.

### On the Contrary (Sed Contra)

A brief, authoritative statement (often from Scripture or a Church Father) supporting the thesis.

### I Respond That (Respondeo)

Aquinas's detailed explanation and solution.

## **Replies to Objections (Ad Objectiones)**

Specific refutations of the initial objections

# Chapter 3

## Part 1

### 3.1 The Nature of Theology (1)

#### 3.1.1 Question 1. The Nature and Extent of Sacred Doctrine

**Article 1. Whether, besides philosophy, any further doctrine is required?**

**Objection 1.** Here anti-Aquinas proposes that Philosophy is the highest end and therefore further knowledge, E.G theology/science, has no end or benefit.

**Objection 2.** The only things worth teaching is that which is true. All that can be proven true can be deduced through philosophy. Therefore, we can know God through philosophy and thus Theology is a subset of philosophy.

**On the contrary** Objection 2 thinks we can know God through human reason, but Aquinas states that the Revelation of God is ~~outside of~~ derived in and of itself(*per se*) by human reason and therefore not a part of philosophy.

**I answer that** The revelation of God through time/the prophets/the bible/the Church was necessary for humans to grasp the true nature of God as this nature is beyond human reason. Human reason could eventually conclude some of the aspects of God, but, even this, would be fraught with error and only a select few would attain that height. Thus, God's revelation was necessary for man to reasonably realize the truth of the Nature of God, thus leading man to a path of salvation.

**Reply to Objection 1.** God is the source of man's reason. Therefore, God's absolute nature will always be above man's reason. Belief that the former statement is false is due to one pride.

**Reply to Objection 2.** There are many paths to God, philosophy is not the only route. Therefore, Theology is sacred doctrine and not philosophy.

This begins one of the unique aspects of the *Summa* for a modern audience. Sciences are distinguished by their object of study and derive from first principles. In this light theology is defined as the study of God, and the first principles thereof are what Aquinas is beginning to define here.

## **Article 2. Whether sacred doctrine is a science?**

**Objection 1.** Sacred doctrine requires faith in divine revelation and is therefore, not a science. A science being a form of study through observation of and defining of first principles. Faith is required to understand Sacred doctrine.

**Objection 2.** Science does not deal with specific events, therefore, Sacred doctrine is not a science in that Revelation takes place in specific historical events. The fact that Isaac Newton got hit on an apple is irrelevant to the nature of gravity. Gravity is a universal reality, the event is circumstantial occurrence.

**On the contrary** Here, Aquinas quotes St. Augustine stating that Sacred Doctrine generates faith, not the other way around. Note, when Aquinas quotes a saint, he does so to utilize their authority on the subject. Further, Sacred doctrine is the sole generator of faith; therefore, Sacred Doctrine is the only science which produces an effect.

**I answer that** There are two types of science, the sciences we discover through intellect and the sciences we discover through the principals of higher sciences. We can learn about signal processing through observation of the physics in the world around us (Intellect). We can likewise learn how to make DSP components by building upon the fundamentals revealed by the study of signal processing. We can not conclude how DSP ought to work through natural observation alone. In Sacred doctrine, God is the fundamental reality that reveals the principles in which sacred doctrine is built upon. These fundamentals about God can only occur due to divine revelation.

**Reply to Objection 1.** Re-read I answer that.

**Reply to Objection 2.** Divine revelation has been revealed to us through the circumstances of people's lives through God's ordaining. The specific people are, for the intention of learning who God is, are irrelevant. Abraham could have been "Steve", but the actions in which God performed for "Steve" reveals who God is... Abraham just so happened to be who God chose, as he is a better example for us to learn of God's person.

### **Article 3. Whether sacred doctrine is one sciences?**

**Objection 1.** Science should have only one subject. Sacred Doctrine consists of two, God and man.

**Objection 2.** Objection 1, but also, there are angels, spiritual creatures, and creation (all of which could be investigated in their own respective sciences).

**On the contrary** These arguments claim that since Sacred Doctrine consists of multiple subjects that it is multiple sciences. Aquinas states that the sciences of things revealed by God. He then gives an Aristotelian example of three objects; man, ass, and rock. These three subjects are wildly different, but when observing them through sight we can observe similar things about them, E.G., color.

**I answer that** Sacred theology is like sight in the previous example. We know more about the subjects through God's revelation.

**Reply to Objection 1.** God is not equal to man. God is the subject, man is related to God in that man's beginning and end is God.

**Reply to Objection 2.** Reply to Objection 1, but "man" -> "all things" ... are related to God in that all things beginnings and ends are God.

#### **Article 4. Whether sacred doctrine is a practical science?**

**Objection 1.** There are two types of science in Aristotelian logic. Practical and Speculative. Practical sciences are things that are oriented toward action, E.G., Ethics or Politics. Speculative Sciences relates to things that are abstract and ordered towards pure knowledge. E.G. Mathematics or physics. Sacred theology is a practical science, that is something to be used in a way to affect the world, like ethics. The bible calls us to action.

**Objection 2.** We have laws of motion, therefore the 10 commandments are laws of human morality.

**On the contrary** Sacred doctrine teaches us not only about what we should do, but who God is. The nature of God is speculative, our call to action from this revelation is practical.

**I answer that** Sacred Doctrine is both practical and speculative, but primarily speculative.

**Article 5. Whether sacred doctrine is nobler than other sciences?** This article pertains to what is the highest form of study.

**Objection 1.** Anti-Aquinas states that the highest science would not be dependent on other things, E.G., faith.

**Objection 2.** Sacred Doctrine relies on a myriad of sciences to be fully understood. Philosophy makes it easier to understand sacred doctrine. Further, Sacred Doctrine requires divine revelation to exist therefore divine revelation is higher than sacred doctrine.

**On the contrary** The end of all other sciences is to serve Sacred Doctrine, therefore, they are beneath it.

**I answer that** Sacred Doctrine is both practical and speculative, but primarily speculative. This is because knowledge of God, the highest good, ~~calls us to imitation of Him~~ enables us to grasp at that which is beyond the limits of human reason. By all accounts Sacred Doctrine is the highest science.

**Reply to Objection 1.** The reason we require faith is because we have a dulled intellect. Had we a perfect intellect we would ascent to the divine reality readily. Further, the smallest knowledge of God, the highest good, is far superior to a vast knowledge of all lower things as God is the source of all things.

**Reply to Objection 2.** Similarly to Thomas' reply to Objection 1. God is the source of Sacred Doctrine. Other sciences simply aid our intellect to better comprehend God. Had we perfect intellects than Sacred Doctrine would be completely stand alone as it is the study of the perfect God

**Article 6. Whether this doctrine is the same as wisdom?** This one tripped me up for a minute, so you're gonna get a pre-amble. Basically, Aquinas is trying to show that Sacred Doctrine has wisdom. That is to say It considers the highest cause and judges all things in light of that cause. Thus, he must prove that sacred doctrine considers the highest cause, that is God, and that it, God, has power of judgment over all other sciences. Basically, he has to defend God's omnipotence over creation.

**Objection 1.** Anti-Thomas claims that Sacred Doctrine can not be an ultimate knowledge or authoritative set as it uses principals given by another field. E.G., Divine revelation. Further, Sacred Doctrine relies on revelation and not natural reason.

**Objection 2.** Sacred Doctrine does not reveal anything about other sciences and is therefore incapable of being the chief of science.

**Objection 3.** Apparently anti-Thomas thinks sacred doctrine comes from human wisdom. This is just a super dumb argument.

**On the contrary** Quote revealing that divine revelation claims that it is wisdom.

**I answer that** God is the source of wisdom. Sacred doctrine is God's revelation, therefore, not only is sacred doctrine wisdom in the simple sense, but it is wisdom par excellence.

**Reply to Objection 1.** God is the source of our knowledge, since God is the highest wisdom and He is the source of Sacred Doctrine we can be assured that the wisdom He

imparted is the highest.

**Reply to Objection 2.** This science is above human reason and comes directly from God. Thus, it is not associated with human reason. Further, we can derive that anything contrary to God's imparted wisdom must be in error.

**Reply to Objection 3.** There are two ways in which a man can come to just judgment wisdom imparted by the holy spirit, and through knowledge of Sacred Doctrine. A saint may know what is right through his/her inclinations. A person who has studied Sacred Doctrine may know what is right or wrong through study. Both originate from God.

#### **Article 7. Whether God is the object of this science?**

**RECOGNIZING THE SCOPE AND TIME CONSTRAINTS THE PART BY PART COMMENTARY WILL CONCLUDE HERE. INSTEAD THERE WILL BE OUTLINES OF SOME OF THE IMPORTANT ELEMENTS FROM EACH ARTICLE. ALL MEMBERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO ASK QUESTIONS ABOUT ANY DETAILS EXCLUDED AND RESPONSES WILL BE ADDED AFTERWARDS.**

In some aspects this article can be considered a precursor to Aquinas's 5 ways. The reason behind this is because Aquinas is beginning to wrestle with the precise reality of what makes Theology such a difficult subject to grasp. We are wrestling to comprehend that which is not possible to fully comprehend. Accordingly, there will always be aspects that are simply unknowable. Ad 1 (Reply to objection 1) is a good example of this. Aquinas is beginning to describe how the science of God must be an *a priori* study. That is we go from effects to the cause. The basis of modern science is *a posteriori* investigations. That is to go from causes to effects. When we can go from a cause to an effect than we know this relationship directly and absolutely. Going from effect to the cause leaves gaps that we are often unable

to fill in. This is an important aspect that will become more apparent in the famous 5 ways argument found in I.2.3 (To decode that, that is Prima Pars [this book], Question 2, article 3). God is absolutely what theology is ordered towards, but it is a science that can never be conclusively solved in the same manner that geometry permits absolute proofs.

**Objection 1.**

**Objection 2.**

**On the contrary**

**I answer that**

**Reply to Objection 1.**

**Reply to Objection 2.**

**Article 8. Whether sacred doctrine is a matter of argument?** Aquinas is addressing the appeal to Faith fallacy. As if to answer the question why do we even bother studying theology if all it is, is a matter of doctrine? Why can't someone merely tell me what I need to believe? Aquinas grants that where there is not even the remotest provision to accept the Articles of Faith there is no argument that can be had. Since it is not possible to derive many of these principles through reason alone, it is difficult for Sacred Doctrine to be a matter of argument without them. Yet, it holds that once the Articles of Faith are granted, it becomes possible to engage with the Faith as a manner of proving certain truths through argumentation. In many ways a follow-up to St. Anselm's famous quote *fides quarens intellectum* (Faith seeking understanding).

**Objection 1.**

**Objection 2.**

**On the contrary**

**I answer that**

**Reply to Objection 1.**

**Reply to Objection 2.**

**Article 9. Whether Holy Scripture should use metaphors?** Again, we are trying to grasp that which is beyond logical comprehension. Therefore, metaphors are appropriate insofar as they reveal the first inclinations of the truth present therein. Metaphors necessarily fall short of describing the true reality of what they are signifying. Thus, the use of a metaphor is often an understatement of God's true nature rather than hyperbole.

**Objection 1.**

**Objection 2.**

**Objection 3.**

**On the contrary**

**I answer that**

**Reply to Objection 1.**

**Reply to Objection 2.**

**Reply to Objection 3.**

## **Article 10. Whether in Holy Scripture a word may have several senses? *Philosophical Note For Deeper Understanding***

Actually the very nature of this question brings about an important philosophical distinction. There are three senses in which we can understand terms. Those being: univocal, equivocal, and analogical/analogous.

1. Univocal terms are those which can only be understood in a singular meaning. They admit not multiplicity of understanding. For example: 'triangle' a term that by its very nature always and without doubt refers to a three-sided polygon.
2. Equivocal terms(or equivocation) are when the same term is being used for vastly different meanings. For example: the term 'bat' could just as easily refer to a baseball bat as it could to a flying mammal.
3. Analogical/Analogous terms are those which are used and refer to different realities despite being the same term. These realities are often related though. As describing something as 'fire' is often utilized to mean that it is hot much like a campfire. These terms are very common in English and increasingly more so with Internet culture.

The on the contrary provides a good example of how Holy Scripture by its nature admits of several senses. Then the main area of focus on this article is towards what is commonly understood as the four senses of reading Sacred Scripture. In this manner, Aquinas is proving how Sacred Scriptutre can be used in Theology to make the arguments required. The four senses of Sacred Scripture, as most often represented today, are: literal, allegorical, moral, and eschatological.

1. Literal - is the historical sense of what actually occurred.
2. Allegorical - speaks to the meaning of how Sacred Scripture continues to reveal truths in every age.
3. Moral - speaks to how one ought to act.

4. Eschatological - speaks to our Final End in the Beatific Vision

With all of this outlined Aquinas is now prepared to proceed to the notion of God's existence. Having argued for the ability to leverage Divine Revelation as his primary means of argumentation.

**Objection 1.**

**Objection 2.**

**Objection 3.**

**On the contrary** Defining the terms that are referenced by Aquinas here and following may prove useful.

**I answer that**

**Reply to Objection 1.**

**Reply to Objection 2.**

**Reply to Objection 3.**

## **3.2 The Existence and Nature of God (2-43)**

This section is broken into three sub-categories:

### **3.2.1 A. The Existence of God (2)**

Here Thomas is trying to prove God's existence, soon thereafter he will describe what God is.

### **3.2.2 Question 2. The Existence of God**

**Article 1. Whether the existence of God is self-evident?** Here Aquinas will argue that while God's existence is self evident, his essence, or nature, is beyond human understanding. Because we can not grasp all of what God is, He is not self evident.

**Objection 1.**

**Objection 2.**

**Objection 3.**

**On the contrary** Since there are people who exist who can say "There is no God", then God's existence is not self evident. It would have to be known by all intelligent creatures. See Alex O'Connor.

**I answer that**

**Reply to Objection 1.**

**Reply to Objection 2.**

### **Reply to Objection 3.**

**Article 2. Whether it can be demonstrated that God exists?** The existence of God can be demonstrated through posteriori, but not priori. That is to say we can know God exist because of his created effects, E.G., creation. We can not know God through His essence as His being is infinite and therefore beyond our reason.

### **Objection 1.**

**Objection 2.** If we can't know the essence of God, then we can't know if He actually exists.

### **Objection 3.**

#### **On the contrary**

**I answer that** There is two ways to demonstrate that something is,  
Cause, "priori"  
and  
Effect, "posteriori".

We can know God exists because of His effects which depend upon His Cause. In simple terms, we can know there is an architect because we see the building. We can not know the architect because we're ants to His personhood. We can gleem that He built it, but we can not grasp Who He is.

### **Reply to Objection 1.**

### **Reply to Objection 2.**

### **Reply to Objection 3.**

**Article 3. Whether God exists?** Here we are gifted with Thomas's Five Ways, that is, Five Ways we can know God exists. These terms are distinct and irreducible, but appear to be the same thing at first glance. Note, this section takes a strong grasp of metaphysics to fully understand the significance as they are basically summaries of something the reader should already be familiar with. Therefore, I implore a greater authority to rework this section.

From Motion: The First Mover, or the Unmoved Mover. This explains why change is happening now. There must be a first mover that does not depend on temporal creation.

From Efficient Causality: First Efficient Cause, basically something had to get the ball rolling. This is different from First change as effect and cause are different.(?)

From Contingency and Necessity: The Necessary Being, creation is contingent on something as nothing can come from nothing. Therefore, there had to be a creator.

From Gradation: The Maximum of Perfection, if transcendentals such as goodness, or truth exists then there must be a perfect good and a perfect truth, which is God. God is the fullness of being, this is known as a participation argument.

From Governance: The Intelligent Governor, natural, unintelligent things all act towards a end. "Gotta make that money, man" [Eaz94]

Change, causation, existence, perfection, and order each require a distinct ultimate explanation, and these explanations converge on one reality. God exists as The First Mover, The First Cause, The Necessary Being, The Maximum of Perfection, and the Intelligent Governor.

### **Objection 1.**

### **Objection 2.**

**On the contrary**

I answer that

**Reply to Objection 1.**

**Reply to Objection 2.**

### **3.2.3 B. The attributes of the divine nature (3-26)**

#### **3.2.4 Question 3. The simplicity of God**

Now that we have established God's existence, we will cover the *simplicity* of God. This is to say that God is metaphysically simple, not intellectually so. This is to say that God is not composed of basic principles, he is basic principles. To put this in English, a man can be wise, God is wisdom; a man can be good, God is goodness; etc... Further, in God His goodness is His wisdom is His power is His being. God does not have different parts, He is. Hence the sacred name I am who am.

**Article 1. Whether God is a body?**

**Objection 1.**

**Objection 2.**

**Objection 3.**

**Objection 4.**

**Objection 5.**

**On the contrary**

I answer that

Reply to Objection 1.

Reply to Objection 2.

Reply to Objection 3.

Reply to Objection 4.

Reply to Objection 5.

**Article 2. Whether God is composed of matter and form?**

Objection 1.

Objection 2.

Objection 3.

**On the contrary**

I answer that

Reply to Objection 1.

Reply to Objection 2.

Reply to Objection 3.

**Article 3. Whether God is the same as His essence or nature?**

**Objection 1.**

**Objection 2.**

**On the contrary**

**I answer that**

**Reply to Objection 1.**

**Reply to Objection 2.**

**Article 4. Whether essence and existence are the same in God?**

**Objection 1.**

**Objection 2.**

**On the contrary**

**I answer that**

**Reply to Objection 1.**

**Reply to Objection 2.**

**Article 5. Whether God is contained in a genus?**

**Objection 1.**

**Objection 2.**

**On the contrary**

**I answer that**

**Reply to Objection 1.**

**Reply to Objection 2.**

**Article 6. Whether in God there are any accidents?**

**Objection 1.**

**Objection 2.**

**On the contrary**

**I answer that**

**Reply to Objection 1.**

**Reply to Objection 2.**

**Article 7. Whether God is altogether simple?**

**Objection 1.**

**Objection 2.**

**On the contrary**

I answer that

Reply to Objection 1.

Reply to Objection 2.

Article 8. Whether God enters into the composition of other things?

Objection 1.

Objection 2.

Objection 3.

On the contrary

I answer that

Reply to Objection 1.

Reply to Objection 2.

Reply to Objection 3.

### 3.2.5 Question 4. The Perfection of God

Article 1. Whether God is perfect?

Objection 1.

Objection 2.

**Objection 3.**

**On the contrary**

**I answer that**

**Reply to Objection 1.**

**Reply to Objection 2.**

**Reply to Objection 3.**

**Article 2. Whether the perfections of all things are in God?**

**Objection 1.**

**Objection 2.**

**Objection 3.**

**On the contrary**

**I answer that**

**Reply to Objection 1.**

**Reply to Objection 2.**

**Reply to Objection 3.**

**Article 3. Whether any creature can be like God?**

**Objection 1.**

**Objection 2.**

**Objection 3.**

**Objection 4.**

**On the contrary**

**I answer that**

**Reply to Objection 1.**

**Reply to Objection 2.**

**Reply to Objection 3.**

**Reply to Objection 4.**

### **3.2.6 Question 5. Goodness in general**

**Article 1. Whether goodness differs really from being?**

**Objection 1.**

**Objection 2.**

**Objection 3.**

**On the contrary**

**I answer that**

**Reply to Objection 1.**

**Reply to Objection 2.**

**Reply to Objection 3.**

**Article 2. Whether goodness is prior in idea to being?**

**Objection 1.**

**Objection 2.**

**Objection 3.**

**Objection 4.**

**On the contrary**

**I answer that**

**Reply to Objection 1.**

**Reply to Objection 2.**

**Reply to Objection 3.**

**Reply to Objection 4.**

**Article 3. Whether every being is good?**

**Objection 1.**

**Objection 2.**

**Objection 3.**

**Objection 4.**

**On the contrary**

**I answer that**

**Reply to Objection 1.**

**Reply to Objection 2.**

**Reply to Objection 3.**

**Reply to Objection 4.**

**Article 4. Whether goodness has the aspect of a final cause?**

**Objection 1.**

**Objection 2.**

**Objection 3.**

**On the contrary**

**I answer that**

**Reply to Objection 1.**

**Reply to Objection 2.**

**Reply to Objection 3.**

**Article 5. Whether the essence of goodness consists in mode, species and order?**

**Objection 1.**

**Objection 2.**

**Objection 3.**

**Objection 4.**

**Objection 5.**

**On the contrary**

**I answer that**

**Reply to Objection 1.**

**Reply to Objection 2.**

**Reply to Objection 3.**

**Reply to Objection 4.**

**Reply to Objection 5.**

**Article 6. Whether goodness is rightly divided into the virtuous, the useful and the pleasant?**

**Objection 1.**

**Objection 2.**

**Objection 3.**

**On the contrary**

**I answer that**

**Reply to Objection 1.**

**Reply to Objection 2.**

**Reply to Objection 3.**

### **3.2.7 Question 6. The goodness of God**

**Article 1. Whether God is good?**

**Objection 1.**

**Objection 2.**

**On the contrary**

**I answer that**

**Reply to Objection 1.**

**Reply to Objection 2.**

**Article 2. Whether God is the supreme good?**

**Objection 1.**

**Objection 2.**

**Objection 3.**

**On the contrary**

**I answer that**

**Reply to Objection 1.**

**Reply to Objection 2.**

**Reply to Objection 3.**

**Article 3. Whether to be essentially good belongs to God alone?**

**Objection 1.**

**Objection 2.**

**Objection 3.**

**On the contrary**

I answer that

Reply to Objection 1.

Reply to Objection 2.

Reply to Objection 3.

**Article 4. Whether all things are good by the divine goodness?**

Objection 1.

Objection 2.

On the contrary

I answer that

Reply to Objection 1.

Reply to Objection 2.

### **3.2.8 Question 7. The infinity of God**

**Article 1. Whether God is infinite?**

Objection 1.

Objection 2.

Objection 3.

**On the contrary**

**I answer that**

**Reply to Objection 1.**

**Reply to Objection 2.**

**Reply to Objection 3.**

**Article 2. Whether anything but God can be essentially infinite?**

**Objection 1.**

**Objection 2.**

**Objection 3.**

**On the contrary**

**I answer that**

**Reply to Objection 1.**

**Reply to Objection 2.**

**Reply to Objection 3.**

**Article 3. Whether an actually infinite magnitude can exist?**

**Objection 1.**

**Objection 2.**

**Objection 3.**

**Objection 4.**

**On the contrary**

**I answer that**

**Reply to Objection 1.**

**Reply to Objection 2.**

**Reply to Objection 3.**

**Reply to Objection 4.**

**Article 4. Whether an infinite multitude can exist?**

**Objection 1.**

**Objection 2.**

**Objection 3.**

**On the contrary**

**I answer that**

**Reply to Objection 1.**

**Reply to Objection 2.**

**Reply to Objection 3.**

### **3.2.9 Question 8. The existence of God in things**

**Article 1. Whether God is in all things?**

**Objection 1.**

**Objection 2.**

**Objection 3.**

**Objection 4.**

**On the contrary**

**I answer that**

**Reply to Objection 1.**

**Reply to Objection 2.**

**Reply to Objection 3.**

**Reply to Objection 4.**

**Article 2. Whether God is everywhere?**

**Objection 1.**

**Objection 2.**

**Objection 3.**

**On the contrary**

**I answer that**

**Reply to Objection 1.**

**Reply to Objection 2.**

**Reply to Objection 3.**

**Article 3. Whether God is everywhere by essence, presence and power?**

**Objection 1.**

**Objection 2.**

**Objection 3.**

**Objection 4.**

**On the contrary**

**I answer that**

**Reply to Objection 1.**

**Reply to Objection 2.**

**Reply to Objection 3.**

**Reply to Objection 4.**

**Article 4. Whether to be everywhere belongs to God alone?**

**Objection 1.**

**Objection 2.**

**Objection 3.**

**Objection 4.**

**Objection 5.**

**Objection 6.**

**On the contrary**

**I answer that**

**Reply to Objection 1.**

**Reply to Objection 2.**

**Reply to Objection 3.**

**Reply to Objection 4.**

**Reply to Objection 5.**

Reply to Objection 6.

### 3.2.10 Question 9. The immutability of God

Article 1. Whether God is altogether immutable?

Objection 1.

Objection 2.

Objection 3.

On the contrary

I answer that

Reply to Objection 1.

Reply to Objection 2.

Reply to Objection 3.

Article 2. Whether to be immutable belongs to God alone?

Objection 1.

Objection 2.

Objection 3.

On the contrary

I answer that

Reply to Objection 1.

Reply to Objection 2.

Reply to Objection 3.

### 3.2.11 Question 10. The eternity of God

Article 1. Whether this is a good definition of eternity, "The simultaneously-whole and perfect possession of interminable life"?

Objection 1.

Objection 2.

Objection 3.

Objection 4.

Objection 5.

Objection 6.

I answer that

Reply to Objection 1.

Reply to Objection 2.

**Reply to Objection 3.**

**Reply to Objection 4.**

**Reply to Objection 5.**

**Reply to Objection 6.**

**Article 2. Whether God is eternal?**

**Objection 1.**

**Objection 2.**

**Objection 3.**

**Objection 4.**

**On the contrary**

**I answer that**

**Reply to Objection 1.**

**Reply to Objection 2.**

**Reply to Objection 3.**

**Reply to Objection 4.**

**Article 3. Whether to be eternal belongs to God alone?**

**Objection 1.**

**Objection 2.**

**Objection 3.**

**On the contrary**

**I answer that**

**Reply to Objection 1.**

**Reply to Objection 2.**

**Reply to Objection 3.**

**Article 4. Whether eternity differs from time?**

**Objection 1.**

**Objection 2.**

**Objection 3.**

**On the contrary**

**I answer that**

**Reply to Objection 1.**

**Reply to Objection 2.**

**Reply to Objection 3.**

**Article 5. The difference of aeviternity and time**

**Objection 1.**

**Objection 2.**

**Objection 3.**

**Objection 4.**

**On the contrary**

**I answer that**

**Reply to Objection 1.**

**Reply to Objection 2.**

**Reply to Objection 3.**

**Reply to Objection 4.**

**Article 6. Whether there is only one aeviternity?**

**Objection 1.**

**Objection 2.**

**Objection 3.**

**Objection 4.**

**On the contrary**

**I answer that**

**Reply to Objection 1.**

**Reply to Objection 2.**

**Reply to Objection 3.**

**Reply to Objection 4.**

### **3.2.12 Question 11. The unity of God**

**Article 1. Whether "one" adds anything to "being"?**

**Objection 1.**

**Objection 2.**

**Objection 3.**

**On the contrary**

**I answer that**

**Reply to Objection 1.**

**Reply to Objection 2.**

**Reply to Objection 3.**

**Article 2.** Whether "one" and "many" are opposed to each other?

**Objection 1.**

**Objection 2.**

**Objection 3.**

**Objection 4.**

**On the contrary**

**I answer that**

**Reply to Objection 1.**

**Reply to Objection 2.**

**Reply to Objection 3.**

**Reply to Objection 4.**

**Article 3.** Whether God is one?

**Objection 1.**

**Objection 2.**

**On the contrary**

I answer that

Reply to Objection 1.

Reply to Objection 2.

Article 4. Whether God is supremely one?

Objection 1.

Objection 2.

Objection 3.

On the contrary

I answer that

Reply to Objection 1.

Reply to Objection 2.

Reply to Objection 3.

### 3.2.13 Question 12. How God is known by us

Article 1. Whether any created intellect can see the essence of God?

Objection 1.

Objection 2.

**Objection 3.**

**Objection 4.**

**On the contrary**

**I answer that**

**Reply to Objection 1.**

**Reply to Objection 2.**

**Reply to Objection 3.**

**Reply to Objection 4.**

**Article 2. Whether the essence of God is seen by the created intellect through an image?**

**Objection 1.**

**Objection 2.**

**Objection 3.**

**On the contrary**

**I answer that**

**Reply to Objection 1.**

**Reply to Objection 2.**

**Reply to Objection 3.**

**Article 3. Whether the essence of God can be seen with the bodily eye?**

**Objection 1.**

**Objection 2.**

**Objection 3.**

**On the contrary**

**I answer that**

**Reply to Objection 1.**

**Reply to Objection 2.**

**Reply to Objection 3.**

**Article 4. Whether any created intellect by its natural powers can see the Divine essence?**

**Objection 1.**

**Objection 2.**

**Objection 3.**

**On the contrary**

I answer that

Reply to Objection 1.

Reply to Objection 2.

Reply to Objection 3.

**Article 5. Whether the created intellect needs any created light in order to see the essence of God?**

**Objection 1.**

**Objection 2.**

**Objection 3.**

**On the contrary**

I answer that

Reply to Objection 1.

Reply to Objection 2.

Reply to Objection 3.

**Article 6. Whether of those who see the essence of God, one sees more perfectly than another?**

**Objection 1.**

**Objection 2.**

**Objection 3.**

**On the contrary**

**I answer that**

**Reply to Objection 1.**

**Reply to Objection 2.**

**Reply to Objection 3.**

**Article 7. Whether those who see the essence of God comprehend Him?**

**Objection 1.**

**Objection 2.**

**Objection 3.**

**On the contrary**

**I answer that**

**Reply to Objection 1.**

**Reply to Objection 2.**

**Reply to Objection 3.**

**Article 8. Whether those who see the essence of God see all in God?**

**Objection 1.**

**Objection 2.**

**Objection 3.**

**Objection 4.**

**On the contrary**

**I answer that**

**Reply to Objection 1.**

**Reply to Objection 2.**

**Reply to Objection 3.**

**Reply to Objection 4.**

**Article 9. Whether what is seen in God by those who see the Divine essence, is seen through any similitude?**

**Objection 1.**

**Objection 2.**

**On the contrary**

I answer that

Reply to Objection 1.

Reply to Objection 2.

**Article 10. Whether those who see the essence of God see all they see in it at the same time?**

Objection 1.

Objection 2.

**On the contrary**

I answer that

Reply to Objection 1.

Reply to Objection 2.

**Article 11. Whether anyone in this life can see the essence of God?**

Objection 1.

Objection 2.

Objection 3.

**Objection 4.**

**On the contrary**

**I answer that**

**Reply to Objection 1.**

**Reply to Objection 2.**

**Reply to Objection 3.**

**Reply to Objection 4.**

**Reply to Objection 5.**

**Reply to Objection 6.**

**Article 12. Whether goodness differs really from being?**

**Objection 1.**

**Objection 2.**

**Objection 3.**

**On the contrary**

**I answer that**

**Reply to Objection 1.**

**Reply to Objection 2.**

**Reply to Objection 3.**

**Article 13.** Whether by grace a higher knowledge of God can be obtained than by natural reason?

**Objection 1.**

**Objection 2.**

**Objection 3.**

**On the contrary**

**I answer that**

**Reply to Objection 1.**

**Reply to Objection 2.**

**Reply to Objection 3.**

### **3.2.14 Question 13. The names of God**

**Article 1.** Whether a name can be given to God?

**Objection 1.**

**Objection 2.**

**Objection 3.**

**On the contrary**

**I answer that**

**Reply to Objection 1.**

**Reply to Objection 2.**

**Reply to Objection 3.**

**Article 2. Whether any name can be applied to God substantially?**

**Objection 1.**

**Objection 2.**

**Objection 3.**

**On the contrary**

**I answer that**

**Reply to Objection 1.**

**Reply to Objection 2.**

**Reply to Objection 3.**

**Article 3. Whether any name can be applied to God in its literal sense?**

**Objection 1.**

**Objection 2.**

**Objection 3.**

**On the contrary**

**I answer that**

**Reply to Objection 1.**

**Reply to Objection 2.**

**Reply to Objection 3.**

**Article 4. Whether names applied to God are synonymous?**

**Objection 1.**

**Objection 2.**

**Objection 3.**

**On the contrary**

**I answer that**

**Reply to Objection 1.**

**Reply to Objection 2.**

**Reply to Objection 3.**

**Article 5. Whether what is said of God and of creatures is univocally predicated of them?**

**Objection 1.**

**Objection 2.**

**Objection 3.**

**On the contrary**

**I answer that**

**Reply to Objection 1.**

**Reply to Objection 2.**

**Reply to Objection 3.**

**Article 6. Whether names predicated of God are predicated primarily of creatures?**

**Objection 1.**

**Objection 2.**

**Objection 3.**

**Objection 4.**

**Objection 5.**

**Objection 6.**

**On the contrary**

**I answer that**

**Reply to Objection 1.**

**Reply to Objection 2.**

**Reply to Objection 3.**

**Reply to Objection 4.**

**Reply to Objection 5.**

**Reply to Objection 6.**

**Article 7. Whether names which imply relation to creatures are predicated of God temporally?**

**Objection 1.**

**Objection 2.**

**Objection 3.**

**Objection 4.**

**Objection 5.**

**Objection 6.**

**On the contrary**

**I answer that**

**Reply to Objection 1.**

**Reply to Objection 2.**

**Reply to Objection 3.**

**Reply to Objection 4.**

**Reply to Objection 5.**

**Reply to Objection 6.**

**Article 8. Whether this name "God" is a name of the nature?**

**Objection 1.**

**Objection 2.**

**On the contrary**

**I answer that**

**Reply to Objection 1.**

**Reply to Objection 2.**

**Article 9. Whether this name "God" is communicable?**

**Objection 1.**

**Objection 2.**

**Objection 3.**

**On the contrary**

**I answer that**

**Reply to Objection 1.**

**Reply to Objection 2.**

**Reply to Objection 3.**

**Article 10. Whether this name "God" is applied to God univocally by nature, by participation, and according to opinion?**

**Objection 1.**

**Objection 2.**

**Objection 3.**

**Objection 4.**

**Objection 5.**

**On the contrary**

**I answer that**

**Reply to Objection 1.**

**Reply to Objection 2.**

**Reply to Objection 3.**

**Reply to Objection 4.**

**Reply to Objection 5.**

**Article 11. Whether this name, HE WHO IS, is the most proper name of God?**

**Objection 1.**

**Objection 2.**

**Objection 3.**

**On the contrary**

**I answer that**

**Reply to Objection 1.**

**Reply to Objection 2.**

**Reply to Objection 3.**

**Article 12. Whether affirmative propositions can be formed about God?**

**Objection 1.**

**Objection 2.**

**Objection 3.**

**On the contrary**

**I answer that**

**Reply to Objection 1.**

**Reply to Objection 2.**

**Reply to Objection 3.**

### **3.2.15 C. The trinity of divine persons (26-43)**

### **3.3 The Procession of Creature from God (44-119)**

This section is broken into three sub-categories:

#### **3.3.1 A. The production of creatures: creation (44-46)**

#### **3.3.2 B. The distinctions among creatures**

1. The distinctions among things in general (47-49)

2. Angels (50-64)

3. Corporeal creatures (65-102)

a. The six days of creation and the seventh day of rest (65-74)

b. On man (75-102)

#### **C. Gods governance of the world**

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2. The actions of creatures on one another (105-119)

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- A. The end of human life (1-5)**
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**B. Vice and sin (71-89)**

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**A. Faith (1-16)**

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- B. The union of the Word with his human nature (2-26)**
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**E. Penance (84-90)**

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