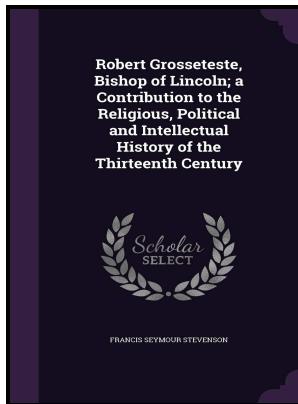


Robert Grosseteste, bishop of Lincoln - a contribution to the religious, political and intellectual history of the thirteenth century

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Because the elements, on the other hand, can be rarefied and condensed, they can incline the lumen in themselves away from the center of the universe, so as to rarefy it, or toward the center so as to condense it, and this accounts for their natural capacity to move up and down. First form and first matter are in themselves indivisible and simple, and according to Grosseteste the finite multiplication of a simple cannot generate an item with size quantum. Within the United States, you may freely copy and distribute this work, as no entity individual or corporate has a copyright on the body of the work.

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Just how tightly associated Grosseteste took the notions of light employed in such different contexts to be is unclear. Instead, Grosseteste takes the kind of necessity involved in such arguments to be compatible with freedom.

Robert Grosseteste, Bishop of Lincoln

Unfortunately Grosseteste has little to say in support of this second claim, but his introduction of a distinct family of modal notions is of philosophical interest in its own right, as it marks an important stage in the development of modal theory. Thus, in On Light he holds the firmament or outermost heavenly sphere to be the most simple body, as it is composed simply of first matter and first form, but in his commentary on the Physics he speaks of the element fire as having in addition to first form the substantial form of fire. In the manuscripts this letter is often divided into two distinct works, On the Unique Form of all Things De unica forma omnium and On the Intelligences De intelligentiis.

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