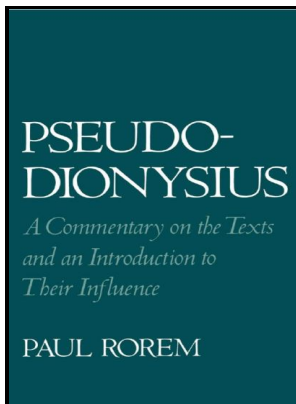


# Mystical theology - The celestial hierarchies

## Shrine of Wisdom - Dionysius and The Mystical Theology



Description: -

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Saint Thomas Aquinas often quoted from pseudo-Dionysius, as did many other famous and influential theologians and philosophers. The Celestial Hierarchies describes the angelic choirs, in whose providential care all created things dwell.

#### Dionysius

This also is worthy, I think, of intellectual consideration, that the scriptural tradition respecting the Angels gives their number as thousands of thousands and ten thousand times ten thousand, multiplying and repeating the very highest numbers we have, thus clearly showing that the Orders of the Celestial Beings are innumerable for us; so many are the blessed Hosts of the Supermundane Intelligences, wholly surpassing the feeble and limited range of our material numbers. To further, then, the attainment of our due measure of deification, the loving Source of all mysteries, in showing to us the Celestial A cherub, after an image ca. His works are mystical and show strong Neoplatonic influence.

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What of the fiery and the anthropomorphic? It is possible that pseudo-Dionysius was himself a member of this group, though debate continues over whether his writings do in fact reveal a monophysite understanding of Christ. For it is not lawful for those who impart or participate in the holy Mysteries to overpass the bounds of its sacred laws; nor must they deviate from them if they seek to behold, as far as is allowed, that Deific Splendour and to be transformed into the likeness of those Divine Intelligences. Hymns Tone 4 Having learned goodness and maintaining continence in all things, you were arrayed with a good conscience as befits a priest.

#### Dionysius and The Mystical Theology

But first let me point out clearly to you that the explanations of the sacred likenesses represent the same Orders of Celestial Beings sometimes as leading, and again being led, and the last leading and the first being led, and the same ones, as has been said, having first, middle and last powers.

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