

Le Nouvel Esprit:
A Video Series on the Theology of
the Body

TOB 21, General Audience of Mar. 12, 1980

The Meaning of Archetype

- John Paul II called knowledge an archetype,
- “Archetype” comes from Jungian psychoanalysis
- Carl Jung, founder of Jungian psychoanalysis and of modern psychology
- Two definitions in fn 32, (p.208-209)
 - 1) “a priori forms of various functions of the soul: perception of relations, creative imagination. The forms are filled with content by materials of experience. They are not inert, but are charged with feeling and tendency.”
 - A priori: not dependent upon experience
 - 2) “Ancient images and motifs that... form the content of the collective unconscious common to all human beings; they present symbols that, in all times and among all peoples, bring to life by way of images what is decisive for humanity with respect to ideas, representations, and instincts.”

Initial Reflections on Gen. 4:1

- This verse is the first time man knows woman
 - 2 conclusions of this knowing
 - 1) Woman is different from animalia, she is a person and subject
 - 2) One cannot separate knowing from the consciousness of the body
- Interpreting the knowing of Gen. 4:1
 - Not to be understood as the passive knowledge of body and sex
 - Knowing here is a further discovery of the body's meaning
 - Knowledge is the basis for original solitude and original unity
 - In knowledge, man confirms the meaning of the name Eve
 - Eve means mother of all living, Gen. 3:20

Motherhood and Fatherhood

- Man is the one who *knows*, woman is the one who is *known*
- The mystery of femininity is revealed in full depth through motherhood,
 - Gen. 4:1 “conceived and gave birth”
- This, in turn, reveals the mystery of masculinity as paternal and generative
- Motherhood: conception, development of new life from within
- Fatherhood: generative, paternal
 - Gen. 5:3: son inherits the image through father, cf. Gen 1:27, 5:1
- The transmission of life is participation in the Divine work
- Differences in masculinity and femininity
 - Biophysical
 - Motherhood shows difference of constitution from within as a particular power of femininity
 - This serves conception and generation
 - This is knowledge that conditions begetting

Begetting

- The process of begetting entails reciprocal knowledge
- Begetting moves beyond the subject-object distinction of man and woman
- Begetting is the consummation of knowledge, a grasping of the objectivity of man and woman
- Through the body man and woman become husband and wife
- This type of knowledge is a pure subjectivity of gift, the mutual realization of this gift

Procreation

- Procreation leads to offspring, which is the revelation of a new man
- In this new man the husband and wife recognize their living image
- Knowledge inscribes the living and real content of a new man
- Knowledge in the biological sense, in reference to body and sex, is not a strictly passive thing, but now enters the domain specific to persons
 - This is through self-determination and self-consciousness
 - Man and woman gain new consciousness of the meaning of their bodies bound to their becoming father and mother
 - Fatherhood and motherhood are bound to the meaning of the body

Theological Depth of Begetting and Procreation

- The whole exterior constitution of woman is in structural union with motherhood
- The body of the woman is the place of the conception of a new man
 - This means that the new man has somatic homogeneity; “I have acquired a man”, Gen. 4:1
 - Homogeneity: “the quality or state of being all the same or all of the same kind.” Oxford Dictionary
 - Fn 34: the image and likeness of children has two consequences
 - 1) Through procreation man continues God’s work
 - 2) Man has a vocation, mission, call to existence
 - Gen. 4:1 points to the woman’s full awareness of the mystery of creation and of her participation in God’s work
- The first parents transmit to all of humanity all “historical experience” about new man as made in the image and likeness of God
 - In every new man this same image of the first parents is reproduced every time

Concluding Remarks

- Man being made in the image and likeness of God is the principle for continuity between original innocence and original sin
 - This image is also the basis of the unity between man and woman
- Knowledge is defined as the act originating being, acting in union with God to establish a new man in existence
- In the conjugal act man and woman take the image and renew it, retransmit it in the life of a new man

Thank You for Watching

Check out our social media:

Website: <https://www.lenouvelesprit.com/>

Patreon: <https://www.patreon.com/lenouvelesprit>

YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC-zwCGTpJ6BeAzza6Xqle_Q

And more: <https://www.lenouvelesprit.com/subscribe>