

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

TOB 17, General Audience of Feb 6, 1980

Review

- In order to grasp original innocence, must examine the experience of historical man
- Historical a posteriori: “an account from what is later”
- The exchange of the gift of persons is the source of the experience of original innocence

Innocence as Exchange of Gift

- Dynamism of this exchange
 - Man and woman **give** gift of self to the other
 - This gift is **accepted**
 - Mutual acceptance establishes the communion of persons
 - This deepens the dignity of the man and woman
 - This dignity corresponds to the fact that God willed the man and the woman each for his and her own sake
- Innocence of heart implies that man and woman morally participate in the Divine Will
- Opposite of giving and accepting this gift
 - Loss of gift
 - Transmutation and reduction of the other to a mere object for me
 - Emergence of shame
- No shame implies that this exchange of give is realized through the preservation of gift and acceptance
 - These two movements of giving and accepting interpenetrate and transform each other

Woman's Gift of Self

- Woman is a gift for man
- Man accepts this gift in the way God willed her for her own sake
- This acceptance through the giving of herself leads to the discovery of herself because of her giving and the man's accepting
 - In this she finds herself in her gift of self
 - In finding herself, woman comes to the depth of her person, full possession of self
- This gift becomes a new source of gift, for it grows by measure and power of disposition to the reciprocal exchange of gift and acceptance

Man's Gift of Self

- Man's function from the beginning is to receive gift
- Woman is entrusted to him, so he must work to ensure the establishment of the communion of persons
- Man through acceptance enriches the woman and is enriched through her and by his gift
- Man's self-donation manifests the essence of his masculinity
 - Essence is expressed through self-possession and the reality of body and sex
 - Man accepts the woman's gift and is welcomed by woman as gift
- Woman's acceptance of gift means that man finds in himself a new profound enrichment of woman with him

Thank You for Watching

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