

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

TOB 5, General Audience of Oct. 10, 1979

Then the Lord God said, “It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him.”

- Gen. 2:18
- Original solitude
  - Not good man is alone, addressed to “man” as such, אָדָם adam
  - 2 meanings
    - 1) derived from human nature
    - 2) distinction between male and female
  - Prior to the male-female distinction
  - An existential problem concerning human nature
- “Not good” has two contexts
  - Original solitude
  - Creation of woman
  - Linked with the vocation to cultivate the earth and rule over creation

# The First Test of Man

- Original solitude is the first test of man
- Man names the animals
  - In doing this, he gains consciousness of his own superiority over other living creatures
  - Man does not find a fit helper from amongst the animals
- Man is searching for his definition
  - Man has a body which means he is a member of visible creation
  - Man's superiority over animals means that he cannot be entirely identified with visible creation
  - This means that man cannot be defined in terms of visible creation alone

# Rational Animal

- Man has a visible body, so he is animal
  - “Animal” is the proximate *genus*
- Man cannot be strictly identified with animalia
  - This principle by which man is separated from animalia is rational
  - “Rational” is the specific difference, the *species*
- Hence man according to Aristotelian logic is defined as “Rational Animal
- Footnote 10

# Subjectivity

- Original solitude:
  - Alone before God and animalia means that man cannot define himself as either
  - Man has self-knowledge. This is also knowledge of reality
  - With this knowledge man reveals “himself to himself”
- Subjectivity
  - “Subjectivity constitutes itself through **self-knowledge**” TOB 5:6 (p. 150)
  - Through **self-consciousness** man distinguishes himself from God and animalia
  - This delineation of man from animalia leads to
    - The first definition of man as rational animal
    - The understanding that man is a person
  - **Subjectivity characterizes the person**

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