

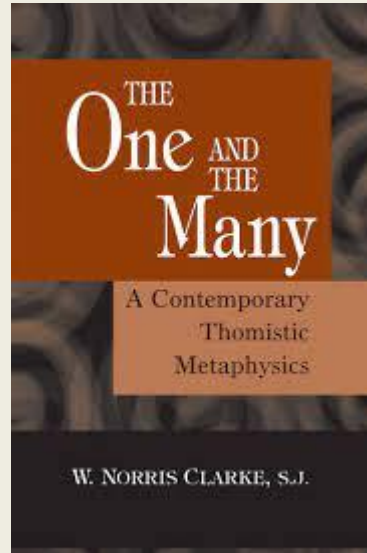
Le Nouvel Esprit:
A Video Series on the Theology of
the Body

TOB 8, General Audience of Nov. 7, 1979

Body and Sex

- Gen. 2:18 and Gen. 2:24 confirm that the experience of **original unity** belongs to the experience of original solitude
- Progression of the creation of man, then woman Genesis 2 informs us
 - 1) Man's bodiliness is not the same thing as his sexuality, body cannot be identified with sex
 - Sex refers to male or female
 - 2) Man has a body first, then a sex
 - 3) This indicates a *substantial* priority of the body over sex
 - Substantial, *substance*, a term from Aristotle's metaphysics meaning "a being apt to exist in itself and not in another" W. Norris Clarke, *The One and the Many*, p. 159
 - Man's body belongs more deeply to humanity metaphysically than being male or female

Resource on Aristotelian-Thomistic Metaphysics



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Genesis 2

- John Paul II defines myth (in a similar vein to our discussion of audience 3)
 - “The term myth does not refer to fictitious-fabulous content, but simply to an archaic way of expressing a deeper content.” TOB 8:2, (p. 157)
- Genesis 2 is a dialogue between God and man
 - God creates in correlation with man
 - Eg Gen. 2:18 God states it is not good for man to be alone, and in Gen. 2:20 man discovers he is alone.
 - There is an element of sadness to this realization

Genesis 2:21-22

- “So, the Lord God caused **torpor** to fall upon man, who fell asleep; then he took one of his **ribs** and closed flesh again in its place. With the rib that the Lord God had taken from the man he formed a woman.”

The Meaning of Torpor

- Hebrew: תַּרְדֵּמָה, tardemah
- Sleep without dreams, a heavy, deep sleep
- Signifies a special divine action to occur
- Torpor is a kind of returning to non-being. Man emerges from torpor as male (ish) and female (isshah)
- Original solitude is broken when man awakes

Freud and Torpor

- A intellectual interlocutor of John Paul II in the TOB
- JPII distinguishes torpor from Freudian psychoanalysis
- Freud believed that dreams are expressions of repressed psychic content in man's unconsciousness
 - This content is sexual
- JPII emphasizes that torpor emphasizes God's *exclusive* creative action over woman, since the man is unconscious, having no role in the creation of woman

With the Rib he formed Woman

- Being made with the rib of man signifies:
 - 1) Woman has the same body and somatic structure of man
 - This is self-evident to the male, and he expressed joy
 - 2) Woman has the same humanity, same species as man
 - Species: man discovered he is a rational animal (Audience 5). Woman is also a rational animal.
- Footnote 15:
 - Sumerian cuneiform for rib means life
 - Hebrew term for bones is a synecdoche for human being
 - Synecdoche: “a figure of speech in which a part is made to represent the whole or vice versa”, Oxford Dictionary
 - Relational meaning of “bones from my bones” as “being from being”
 - “Flesh of flesh” hence implies same personhood
- Woman defined as a help signifies complementarity

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