

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

TOB 13, General Audience of Jan. 2, 1980

# Nakedness Review

- Nakedness signifies the:
  - Original goodness of divine vision in its whole simplicity and fullness
  - Pure value of
    - Man as male and female
    - The human body and its sex
- Gen. 2:25 signifies that there is no antithesis or break between
  - The sensible and spiritual
  - Person and sex
- Interior gaze is the seeing of the man and woman reciprocally through the mystery of creation
  - This gaze creates the fullness of intimacy between persons
- The meaning of original nakedness corresponds to the fullness of the vision of the first man and woman in their understanding the meaning of the body from their communion

# Experience and Gift

- Fn 23: an adequate anthropology relies essentially on human experience and cannot be reduced to naturalistic conceptions
- The concepts of created and Creator requires a hermeneutics of gift
  - This gets to the heart of creation
  - This is decisive for the essential truth and depth of original solitude, original unity, and original nakedness

# Creation and Gift

- Gen. 1:1, 21, 27, God created (cf. fn 24)
  - בָּרָא, bara, create
  - Only God performs bara
  - In verse 27, God baras man, creates man. Bara is used 3 times
    - The threefold repetition emphasizes that man is the high point of creation
- God created from nothing, calls being into existence because God is love (cf. 1 John 4:8)
  - Gen. 1:31 creation is very good signifies that love is the divine motive
  - Only love gives rise to the good and is pleased with the good (1 Cor. 13)
  - בְּרֵאשִׁית בָּרָא, berishith bara, first two words of the Bible
    - In the beginning (he) created
    - These words signifies that creation is a gift
    - Creation is an act of giving because it comes from nothing

# Creation and Gift Continued

- “Every creature bears within itself the sign of the original and fundamental gift.” TOB 13.4, (p. 180)
- Gift implies that there is a giver and a receiver, and a relation between the two
  - This relation is demarcated by man being made in the image and likeness of God
  - Giving only has meaning in relation to man
- “Creation is a gift, because man appears in it, who, as an “image of God,” is able to understand the very meaning of the gift in the call from nothing to existence.” TOB 13.4 (p. 180)
- Creation is the fundamental and original gift
  - Man receives the world as gift
  - The world receives man as gift

# 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](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC-zwCGTpJ6BeAzza6Xqle_Q)

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