

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

TOB 67, General Audience of Dec. 9, 1981

# Like Angels in Heaven

- Continue discussion of Mark 12:25; Matt. 22:30; Luke 20:36
- Describes man's spiritualization, a different kind of existence from earthly life
  - Experience harmony and union between body and soul
    - Different from historical man with the disunion and war within man
  - Eschatological man has no opposition within himself between body and soul
  - This spiritualization signifies that the body is mastered by the spirit, that the spirit fully permeates the body, its powers permeates the body's energies

# The Spiritualization of Man

- This mastery of the spirit over the body on earth is a fruit of a spiritually mature personality
  - The opposition between body and soul is not eliminated on earth but diminished
  - Spiritualization is beyond this experience, it is perfect such that the law of opposition is completely eliminated
- The difference between spiritualization in heaven and life on earth does not entail a disincarnation or dehumanization
  - The perfection of man as a composite psychosomatic being is manifested in the harmony between body and soul
- The resurrection of the body is the definitive victory over death
  - Perfect participation of everything bodily in everything spiritual
  - Perfect realization of what is personal

# The Divinization of Man

- The other world implies both
  - Spiritualization, for like the angels
  - Divinization, for now we become sons and daughters of God
- Divinization
  - The degree of spiritualization has its source in the degree of divinization
  - This divinization is different in kind from any earthly experience
    - In it we participate in the divine nature with a fullness inaccessible before with God's self-communication
    - The new spiritualization of man is a fruit of grace, of God's self-communication to the whole of man as a psychosomatic subject
      - Psychosomatic subject indicates a tripartite anthropology, cf. TOB 71:6, fn82 (p.408)
  - Subjectivity of man is newly formed in its entirety as an interior state of being able to see God face to face
    - This is accomplished according to the measure of union of God within the intimacy of the Trinitarian communion of persons
    - This intimacy is not an absorption of man's subjectivity, but making it emerge in incomparably greater and fuller measure

# A New Meaning of the Body

- The divinization of man is not possible on earth
- The resurrection of the body informs us that the body participates in its own way in the eschatological experience of the truth and love of being united with God and seeing Him face to face
- The fact that man and woman neither take husband and wife indicates
  - 1) That marriage and procreation are earthly
  - 2) There is a new meaning of the body
- Question: on the level of Biblical eschatology, is the spousal meaning of the body virginal in meaning?
  - To answer this question, we must dive into the essence of beatification guided by human experience

# The Eschatological Experience of Man

- The eschatological experience of man
  - 1) A concentration of man's spiritual energies
  - 2) Reveals through experience God's self-communication, God's most personal self-giving
  - God's mystery becomes the content and of eschatological experience and "form" of human existence
- In the life of the other world we experience the full and perfect experience of God's grace
- We discover in the beatific vision the same characteristics of the spousal meaning of the body

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