

H-R.C.S.C. February 25, 1972

What are you doing when doing theology = Method in Theology

Supposes: What am I doing when I am knowing = Insight

What am I doing when doing math., phys., advancing in
common sense, doing phil.

& what am I doing when praying repenting growing spiritually

Not in terms of metaphys (potencies habits acts; objects as causes goal

But in terms of the data of consciousness (intentionality analysis)

Changes in theological method: different differentiations of consc

1. Learning to speak: moving out of a world of immediacy into a
world mediated by meaning that includes not only the present and
actual but also the past and future, the possible, the probable,
the imaginary, the phantastic, all that has been known by
friends relatives ancestors other peoples

2. Advance in holiness: traditionally the purgative illuminative
unitive way. The oldest: Mircea Eliade, Le Chamanisme. Techniques
archaiques de l'ecstase. At its root: God gives all men sufficient
grace for salvation (I Tim 2, 3.4); that sufficient grace is charity
(L Cor 13, 1 ff) I may speak in tongues of men or of angels, but if
I am without love I am a sounding gong or a clanging sycambal. I may
have the gift of prophecy, and know every hidden truth; I may have
faith strong enough to move mountains; but if I have no love, I am
nothing. I may dole out all I possess, or even give my body to be
burnt, but if I have no love, I am none the better."

3. Literary differentiation of Consciousness: Bruno Snell,
The Greek & Discovery of Mind (Torch book) Homeric simile
objectification of character, lyric poets of intense personal
feeling, dramatists of decisions and their consequences,
~~xxxxxxxx~~ historians of past or distant, philosophers of
need for more than information, for intelligence, for wisdom,
mathematicians of power of argument.

4. Systematic differentiation Eddington's two tables; Aristotle's
priora quoad se and priora quoad nos (~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ substance
and accident; end agent matter and form; physics further
determination of metaphysics; psychology further determination of
physical concepts. Butterfield Origins of Modern Science
end of seventeenth century; many discoveries previous but they
were in conflict with Aristotelian assumptions of their authors
~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~

5. Modern scientific Systematic ktema es aiei. Statement of the eternal verities. Modern science, not truth except as asymptotic limit, but ongoing process of increasing understanding. What is rejected, may be rejected with certainty; but what is affirmed is only the best available opinion

6. Modern philosophic Modern science rejected any philosophic base, worked out its own basic concepts on empirical grounds, made it its aim to explain all phenomena. A modern philosophy cannot be any return to Aristotle and Aquinas; it has to fit into the modern scene; it can do so only by explaining the scientific and other processes of explaining; if it succeeds it will uncover an invariant basis, namely, the ongoing process

7. Modern scholarship Schleiermacher, Hermeneutics not as rules of thumb for expounding SScr, or other rules of thumb for classical scholars, but as a general technique for avoiding misunderstanding of an author. August Boeckh ~~was a pupil~~ a pupil of Schleiermacher and Fred Wolf (Prolegomena to Homer), defined philologie as the reconstruction of the constructions of mankind, an entering into the whole mentality of another place and time, The German Historical School (von Ranke, von Seigny, the Grimm brothers, and endless progeny) taught historians (1) not to insert the passions of the present into their accounts of the past, (2) to operate on the basis of contemporary sources, (3) to establish just how the sources obtained their information and just how they used it.

It is important to advert to the difference between modern science and modern scholarship. Modern science aims at setting up universal laws that are refuted if a single contrary instance can be established. Modern scholarship aims at understanding concrete processes, and it does not expect that its understanding of one concrete process will be verified in some other instance of concrete process.

8. Multiple differentiations, various combinations, add esthetic

Changes in Theological Method

Theology, etymologically, discourse about God

properly, reflection on religion, on one's own

die Wendung zur Idee, shift toward s ten

every movement - the larger it is and the longer it lasts -

whether religious scientific ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ literary

artistic social - has to stop and reflect, determine its

proper aims, ensure that it is not captured by ~~xxxxx~~

alien influences, twisted to different ends

Method in theology

- 1 incidental use of logic, defined terms, homoousios, person, nature,
- 2 surveys of the whole of catholic doctrine: John Damascene, De fide ort
- 3 ongoing process of study aiming at systematic presentation of faith
and its implications
 - a Books of Sentences (Most famous: Peter Lombard, about 1150)
 - b Quaestio as technique (Abaelard Sic et Non, Gilbert de la Porree)
 - c Application of technique to contents of book of sentences
 - d Introduction and adaptation of Aristotle to provide a systematic
base so that solutions to questions will themselves be coherent
A method in the proper sense of the word: a normative set of
related and recurrent operations with progressive and cumulative resl
Progress: compare Aquinas on Sentences with the Sentences; the
differences are the fruit of a century of investigation and reflection
More of an achievement than medieval anticipations of modern science
- 4 Decline: Aristotelian-Augustinian debacle

Franciscans rejected pagan Aristotle except for Organon
Posterior analytics present notion of science unacceptable to math
Scepticism and subsequent decadence

Painting themselves into a corner: Capreolus commentary not
on Sentences but on Thomas' Scriptum super Sent; Cajetan
and later Spaniards, Commentary on Summa theologiae
- 5 Humanism, Melchior Cano, restoration of sources, proof medieval
theses from SScr FF CC Rat theol.
- 6 Modern science: elim static system
Modern scholarship demands specialization in OT NT PP TT
Moder philosophy, die antropologische Wendung, basic terms name
what is given in experience of subject