

TH: 880.01: SYMBOL AND ANALOGY: ASCENT OF THE HEART AND MIND TO GOD

Boston College
Spring, 1976

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WEEKLY SCHEDULE AND READING ASSIGNMENTS

20 Jan.: Introduction: schedule and rationale of readings for the course; assignments.

27 Jan.: Experiential matrix for symbols and analogy; toward a sufficiently broad notion of experience.

Readings: D. Tracy, "The Search for Adequate Criteria and Modes of Analysis," Blessed Rage for Order, 1975, 64-87.

J.E. Smith, "The Classical Meaning of 'Faith Seeking Understanding'," The Analogy of Experience, c. 1973, 1-24.

_____, "A New Approach to Understanding," Analogia experientiae, ibid., 25-43.

_____, "Analogy and Experience," ibid., 44-61.

3 Feb.: Crucial turning-points in experience.

Readings: J.E. Smith, "Man and the Circular Predicament," ibid., 62-83.

_____, "God as Transcending Center of Intention," ibid., 84-103.

D. Burrell, "Introduction: On Hermeneutic Exercises," Exercises in Religious Understanding, c. 1974, 1-7.

_____, "Augustine: Understanding as a Personal Quest," ibid., 11-41.

10 Feb.: Experience and the significance of "limit."

Readings: D. Tracy, "The Religious Dimension of Common Human Experience and Language," op. cit., 91-118.

R.A. Johnston, "The Philosophical Origins of Demythologizing: Marburg Neo-Kantianism," The Origins of Demythologizing, 1974, 38-86.

24 Feb.: Metaphorical articulations of transcendence.

Readings: P. Ricoeur, "The Metaphorical Process," Semeia (5: 1975) 75-106.

_____, "The Specificity of Religious Language," ibid., 107-145.

D. Tracy, "Religious Language in the New Testament," op. cit., 119-145.

2 Mar.: Technical formulations of the experience of transcendence.

Readings: D. Burrell, "Anselm: Formulating the Quest for Understanding," op. cit., 45-79.

_____, "Aquinas: Articulating Transcendence," op. cit., 80-140.

7 Mar.: Symbolic structures of man's dynamic image of transcendence.

Readings: A. Vergote, "La déhiscence verticale," Interpretation du langage religieux, 1974, "

_____, "Le Nom du Père et l'écart de la topographie symbolique," ibid.,

_____, "L'avènement du sujet dans l'événement ~~l'avènement~~ de la vérité," ibid.,

16 Mar.: The Symbolic rationale: advantages and shortcomings.

Readings: E. Voegelin, "Equivalences of Experience and Symbolization in History," Eternità e storia (a cura dell' Istituto Accademico di Roma), c. 1970, 215-234.

H.-G. Gadamer, "Part Two: The Subjectivization of Aesthetics by the Kantian Critique," Truth and Method, 1975 (E. trans.), 39-90.

23 Mar.: A metaphysical approach to divine transcendence.

Readings: D. Tracy, "The Question of God: Metaphysics Revisited," op. cit., 146-171.

_____, "The Meaning, Meaningfulness and Truth of God-Language," op. cit., 172-203.

S. Ogden, "The Reality of God," The Reality of God and Other Essays, c. 1963, 1-70.

30 Mar.: Relations and divine transcendence; introduction to analogy.

Readings: Selected texts on the topic of relations in God (to be reproduced and made available to seminar participants).

D. Burrell, "Part One: From Counter-claims to a Position," Analogy and Philosophical Language, c. 1973, 9-33.

6 Apr.: Classical and medieval teachings on analogy.

Readings: D. Burrell, "Part Two: Origins of the Question in Classical Philosophy," ibid., 37-91.

_____, "Part Three: Contrasting Medieval Positions," ibid., 95-212.

13 Apr.: Metaphor and analogy revisited; approaching and arriving at divine transcendence.

Readings: F. Ricoeur, "Métaphore et discours philosophique," La métaphore vive, 1975, 323-399.

B. Tyrrell, "Part II: The Internal Development of Lonergan's Philosophy of God," Bernard Lonergan's Philosophy of God, c. 1974, 63-179.

20 Apr.: An example of analogical understanding in theology: the analogy of knowledge.

Reading: B. Lonergan, "Imago Dei," Verbum. Word and Idea in Aquinas, 1967, 183-220.

27 Apr.: The meaning and use of analogy in contemporary theology.

Readings: B. Lonergan, "Foundations," Method in Theology, 1972, 267-293.

_____, "Systematics," ibid., 335-353.

COLLATERAL READINGS

D. Burrell, "Aquinas on Naming God," Theological Studies, (24: 1963) 183-212.

A. Grabner-Haider, "Wittgenstein und 'das Mystische.'" Folgerungen für die Theologie, Zeitschrift für Katholische Theologie, (97: 1975), 282-296.

J. Ladriere, "Langage scientifique et langage spéculatif," Revue philosophique de Louvain, (69: 1971), 92-132, 250-282.