

Workshop QQ: June 17 1981

1. My notion of natural law has not been worked out.

A start would be Eric Voeglin's chapter 4 in Anamnesis (Notre Dame 1978): What is right by nature?, which is an acute study of Aristotle. Compare it with the work of other commentators. Proceed as directed in Method: research interpretation history dialectic etc

Roughly, natural law is law as distinct from the laws formulated by civil or ecclesiastical authority

2 The basic step was to note that notion of the human good, like the notions of intelligibility and rationality, is not any and every good, but value, what is worth while, the end of rational appetite.

The second step is to notice that the ongoing repetition of what is desirable and the ongoing avoidance of what is not are preferable to single occurrences of the same

The second step is to notice that human needs are recurrent over time

The second step is to notice that human needs as human are common to humankind and as recurrent over time. As common and recurrent the common good is any arrangement that meets such needs recurrently.

The third step is to insert in these arrangements an ongoing supply of particular instances of the good that meets those needs.

3 Emergent probability is the arrangement that results from the combination in the same universe of both classical and statistical laws.

It is illustrated as the way in which this universe has developed and operates

Hence it is a human approximation to the way in which divine providence operates in this universe.

4a Aquinas doctrine that divine knowledge is infallible, divine will is irresistible, divine action is efficacious.

Plus human freedom responsibility

What is predicated of God or of a divine person contingently

has its truth

not by inserting contingency in God

but through the contingent object known eternally, willed eternally or permitted eternally, and thereby produced efficaciously

Such truth is eternal in God's mind but arises in human minds only with the occurrence of the contingent eventuality

4b It certainly is possible not to live up to it, else watch and pray that you enter not into temptation would be otiose

According to Aq, simultaneously with the infusion of sanctifying grace there occur the acts of faith and repentance of the person justified.

St Aq would have to drop his view if a better authority could disprove it.

5a Religious faith of itself does not ~~g~~ guarantee intellectual conversion in the short run

The decree of Nicea set up an exigence for intellectual conversion, but it has not proved universally effective even among those that have ~~xxx~~ accepted Nicea sincerely. Catholic schools ~~xx~~ disputed for centuries on the issue of a real distinction between finite essence and contingent existence, though essence of itself is intelligible and what is contingent of itself is not intelligible but mere matter of fact.

Prior to ~~x~~ Origen interpretations of the incarnation and the trinity were colored by Stoic doctrine which was materialistic. With Origen they became Platonist and conceptualist. With Nicea there arose an exigence at least for dogmatic realism and eventually for critical realism.

5b Does the absence of religious faith affect the development of a science.

De facto, scientific work is fertile ground for the incubation of false philosophy. It can be of course that the false philosophy was first and found in scientific conclusions arguments for its position. But it also is true that the average scientist in our largely secularist culture in some countries by law established provides little help to the scientist for evading erroneous implications in his conclusions.

6 The need for intellectual conversion arises in a certain cultural milieu

viz. when there are many opposed philosophies and there is a sincere effort to get to the root of the trouble

7 Fr Doran thinks of the "unconscious" as developmental process on the neural level

Levi-Strauss has remarked that the discovery of the double helix was formulated by using his structuralist techniques. His technique is linguistic development via binary opposites or contrasts. Current Cross Currents, book review of L-S

8 At least my style is not their dish of tea. If they mean more, they may explain their meaning in general terms derived ~~fx~~ from a satisfactory cognitional theory.

9 Yesterday, medieval ignorance of temporal ~~x~~ historical appropriateness.

Renaissance painters did not investigate the way biblical figures dressed, built, etc.

Rosemary Haughton, The Passionate God, treats of Xt's foreknowledge of his death by his understanding of the signs of the times, his transfiguration by his need of others with whom he could discuss what was to happen to him and why,

Traditionally it was piously believed that during the passion God the Father withdrew a number of exceptional powers and qualities that theologians had attributed to him in expression of their reverence and piety.

Go about it without disturbing the peace and unity of the body of Christ!