



Angelology and Demonology of St Thomas Aquinas

Introduction

Why angelology is important?

- very popular topic - large number of inadequate and simplifying publications
- teaching on angels in non Christian religions sometimes mixed with Christian teaching
- strong links with contemporary spiritism (channeling)
- growing number of demonic possession in the modern world
- growing popularity of prayers to Angels

Why St Thomas Aquinas?

Angelology of St Thomas Aquinas is unique and it is the top achievement of angelology ever made in Catholic Theology

There are several reasons for this...

Special character of Aquinas' angelology

- Aquinas stands at the peak of the whole ancient and medieval tradition and brilliantly makes the synthesis of Christian and philosophical teaching on Angels.
- Aquinas lives in medieval society where whole spiritual world and angels are present in more intensive way in the ordinarily life of man and society.
- Aquinas has perfectly crafted tools of metaphysics to discern and name spiritual reality.
- Aquinas angelology is methodological and puts in order all main topics of angelology:

The order of issues

1. we must have an analysis on the nature angels as such
- metaphysics of angels

- ◉ spiritual beings are discussed in general without the division between good and bad spirits

2. theological issues must be resolved on the basis of philosophy of angels

- ◉ salvation and sin of angels
good angels \leftrightarrow evil demons

metaphysics first - philosophy of angels

- Whether angels exist? Are there any proofs?
- What it means to be a being separated from matter?
- How such being relates to material world? Is he in place? Can he move? Can he change matter?
- How angels cognise? What can they know about material world, human thoughts etc.?
- How they will and love?
- When were they created before or after material world?

theology of angels

- Sin of angels and its consequences. What kind of sin it was?
Can they convert back?
- Salvation and damnation of angels.
- Good angels
 - Vision of God and happiness of angels
 - Hierarchical structure of angels
 - Guarding activity on world and man
- Evil demons
 - Punishment of demons
 - Are they organised in a kind of order?
 - Temptation - how demons can influence human soul?

Literature

- St Thomas Aquinas, *Summa Theologiae* 1889, Ia q. 50-119 (www.newadvent.org/summa/1.htm)
 - Pars prima; questions 50-64; 106-114.
- St Thomas Aquinas, *Tractatus de substantiis separatis*.
- J. Collins, *The Thomistic Philosophy of Angels*, The Catholic University of America Press, Washington 1947.
- D. Keck, *Angels and Angelology in the Middle Ages*, Oxford University Press, New York-Oxford 1998.
- T. Stępień, *Aquinas against spiritual matter*, *Epekeina*, vol. 6, n. 2
- T. Stępień, *Doktor Anielski o aniołach*, *Michalineum* 2014.

- All materials for the course are available at:
www.filozofiareligii.teologia.uksw.edu.pl/234-2/
- Assessment method:
 - Short paper (apr. 10 pages) on one of the topic presented on the course.