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‘Standing Accused’

Analogy and Dialogue as the Personhood of Substance

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Thesis Abstract

This thesis engages the issue of personhood, arguing that persons are both analogical and dialogical beings. I look at personhood first, from the standpoint of the slandered and ‘accused’ person. Beginning with the scene of Christ before Pilate, I show that the logic of accusation is unassailably couched within the grammar of testimony or of bearing witness (Chapter 1). Next, I treat the Dreyfus Affair and the contrast of *mystique* and *politique* in the writings of Charles Péguy (Chapter 2). Here I turn to the ‘accusation in the accusative’ logic of Emmanuel Levinas, demonstrating that within an approach of radical alterity to the exclusion of other grammatico-ontological cases, the person becomes lost without some sort of original, analogical case of ‘giving’ (Chapter 3). In response to extreme accounts slander and of the heterogeneity of the person, this thesis, secondly, proposes that the person should be understood first analogically, and secondly, as an analogical extension, dialogically. To this end I examine the debate concerning analogy in Thomas Aquinas and the tradition that followed him. I explore both the metaphysical path of *resolutio*, perfection, and theological recapitulation (Chapter 4), and then look to the debate on analogy itself arguing that it is best understood as pointing toward an *analogia entis* that is coextensively an *analogia personae* (Chapter 5). Finally, I conclude with an articulation of the person as dialogical. I look first to the form of dialogue in Plato, then I conclude with three sections enacting a ‘call and response’ of the divine persons speaking ‘to the creature through the creature’, where I end with an account of persons living a dialogically ensouled life within the *communio personarum* (Chapter 6). I finish with a brief conclusion recapitulating the argument with a Christic entreaty toward the neighbor.

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Part I: The Person Accused

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION : THE ACCOSTED PERSON

a. *Who is Truth?*

'In question is the whole of man; it is not in thought alone that we must seek him out. It is into action that we shall have to transport the center of philosophy, because there is also to be found the center of life'.

- Maurice Blondel¹

'We will have access to the truth of Being only if we are willing to receive it with the whole of our Being. At some point, we will be faced with a truth that asks everything of us, the whole of ourselves, without remainder. But should we be surprised? What sort of truth would it be if it did not demand, and promise, everything? If truth called on only a part of ourselves, only temporarily—what would we do with the rest? What use would it be?

- D. C. Schindler²

'Christ is the only one who can make his life a test for all people'.

- Anti-Climacus³

It is not out of the ordinary to ask one another questions concerning truth. Is this or that pronouncement true? Nor is it alien in philosophical and theological discussions to ask such things as, 'does this obtain?', 'is this state of affairs or propositions true?', or even, 'what is the nature of truth?' *What*, indeed, is truth?⁴

¹ Maurice Blondel, *Action (1893): Essay on a Critique of Life and a Science of Practice*, trans. Oliva Blanchette (Notre Dame, IN: University of Notre Dame, 1984), 13.

² D. C. Schindler, *Hans Urs Von Balthasar and the Dramatic Structure of Truth: A Philosophical Investigation*, Perspectives in Continental Philosophy 34 (New York, NY: Fordham University Press, 2004), 347.

³ Søren Kierkegaard, *Practice in Christianity*, trans. and ed. Howard V. Hong and Edna H. Hong, Kierkegaard's Writings XX (Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 1991), 202.

⁴ See, e.g., Peter Vardy, *What Is Truth?: Beyond Postmodernism and Fundamentalism* (Alresford: John Hunt Publishing Ltd, 2003); John M. Rist, *What Is Truth?: From the Academy to the Vatican* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2008); Andrew Shanks, *What Is Truth?: Towards a Theological Poetics*, 1st ed. (London: Routledge, 2001); Richard Schantz, ed., *What Is Truth?*, vol. 1, Current Issues in Theoretical Philosophy (Berlin and New York: Walter de Gruyter, 2001).

In this thesis I will push such a question along the lines of the notion of persons and personhood. I will suggest that there is something inherently ‘personal’ about asking questions of truth but also that the truth, to be truth, must be lived and embodied in a Life. In other words, personhood is the truth of things because *a person is the truth*, or put in another way, *the substance of things is personal*.⁵ Before proceeding with the outline of my project, I must address what is at stake in the concept of outlining the concept of personhood. Above all, this means that while this thesis is about persons and personhood, it does not intend to *define* persons in any comprehensive manner. The very ‘nature’ of the person in fact prohibits such an enterprise. The reason for this is double. First, because this thesis works within a conception that derives its concept of the person from an ever-greater God (in the sense of a *maior dissimilitudo*), as Hans Urs von Balthasar says, ‘we can never catch up with him. Accordingly, we who are his “image and likeness” do not despair because of our inability to arrive at a definition; instead, we are aware of a comparative dimension: man is *more* than what can be included in a conceptually clear definition’.⁶ This first rejection of a conceptually clear definition is based upon the positive mystery of the person whose depth points beyond him- or herself. A second rejection stems from the ‘dignity’ of the person which prevents, in a kind of negative manner, the ability to define a person based on a set of criteria.⁷ Robert Spaemann is instructive here, for he says, ‘the independence of the person hinges on the fact that no one is allowed to decide whether or not another human being bears the fundamental features

⁵ Technically, these are two different questions and will be considered separately at different stages throughout this thesis. However, insofar as being is convertible with truth, goodness, and beauty, these two questions coincide.

⁶ Hans Urs von Balthasar, *Theo-Drama: Theological Dramatic Theory: The Dramatis Personae: Man in God*, trans. Graham Harrison, vol. II (San Francisco, CA: Ignatius Press, 1990), 345, emphasis Balthasar’s.

⁷ For an excellent treatment of human dignity as told from a critical realist approach to personalism, see Christian Smith, *What Is a Person?: Rethinking Humanity, Social Life, and the Moral Good from the Person Up* (Chicago, IL: University of Chicago Press, 2010), 434–90. Specifically, Smith emphasizes ‘critical realism’s concepts of stratified reality and emergence to shift the source of dignity from specific capacities operating at the middle level to emergent personhood existing at the highest level of personal being. Dignity is a proactive emergent property of personhood as a whole, not a result of the possession or exercise of some specific given human capacities’ (Ibid., 479).

of personhood'.⁸ If this were the case, just *who* would have the right and power to make such definitions? Who would judge? Before us unfolds a familiar scene.

When Christ was taken before Pilate to be prosecuted on behalf of his fellow Jews, Pilate questions them and Jesus in order to determine what sentence should be passed. Christ informs Pilate that his kingdom is not of this world and that, as a king of this kingdom, he comes to testify to the truth. Here, Pilate asks Christ the famous question: 'What is truth?' (τί ἐστὶν ἀλήθεια).⁹ Anti-Climacus, the pseudonymous author of *Practice in Christianity*, dramatically describes the scene: 'For what is truth, and in what sense was Christ the truth? The first question, as is well known, was asked by Pilate, and another question is whether he really cared to have his question answered; in any case in one sense his question was altogether appropriate, and in another sense it was as inappropriate as possible. Pilate asks Christ the question: What is truth? But Christ was indeed the truth; therefore the question was entirely appropriate. Yes, and in another sense, no'.¹⁰ To explore this latter, negative sense, Pilate's question assumes that truth can only be a kind of neutral 'what' (τί) as opposed to the gendered 'who' (τίς). When the truth¹¹

⁸ "Human Nature", in Robert Spaemann, *Essays in Anthropology: Variations on a Theme*, trans. Guido de Graaff and James Mumford (Eugene, OR: Cascade Books, 2010), 22. Spaemann has in mind here such thinkers as Peter Singer in his well-known and controversial, *Practical Ethics*, 3rd ed (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2011). To this can be added, amongst others, Daniel C. Dennett, "Conditions of Personhood," in *What Is a Person?*, ed. Michael F. Goodman (Clifton, NJ: Humana Press, 1988), 145–67. 'Philosophy does not, and cannot, declare human beings to be persons. It has to recognize them because they are already persons. This is why the fact that a person is a person does not depend upon the philosopher's insight and argumentation: personhood is an "unpreconceivably" given reality. The status of a person, he argues, is "the only status, indeed, that we do not confer, but acquire naturally [*natürlicherweise*]." This is why the person *always already* has a particular dignity in Spaemann's view'. Holger Zaborowski, *Robert Spaemann's Philosophy of the Human Person: Nature, Freedom, and the Critique of Modernity* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2010), 55 and see 198: "Things and animals 'are' their nature, but persons are preceded by their nature and 'have' their nature in freedom." The quotation above (Zaborowski, p. 55) comes from Robert Spaemann, *Persons: The Difference Between "Someone" and "Something"*, trans. Oliver O'Donovan (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2006), 17.

⁹ John 18:38, NRSV. This and all following Scriptural citations will be from this translation.

¹⁰ Kierkegaard, *Practice in Christianity*, 203; Andrew T. Lincoln, *The Gospel According to St John*, Black's New Testament Commentary (London and New York: Continuum, 2005), 129. On its face, it may indeed be the case that the question is 'inappropriate', but as will become apparent, that is no reason not to explore the implications of the question asked in light of the height of the drama of this scene within the narrative, just as Anti-Climacus himself does.

¹¹ John 14:6.

confronts Pilate, he does not realize that ‘Christ’s life was in fact the truth’.¹² While Christ stands on trial in this scene, it is also Pilate who simultaneously stands accused, ‘for in questioning Christ in this way he actually informs against himself’ and thus ‘makes the self-disclosure that Christ’s life has not explained to him what truth is’¹³—or, as I shall be arguing below in the course of this thesis, ‘who’ the truth is. For it is my contention that the *person is the truth*—that the person of Christ, fully human and fully divine, is the truth. Thus, the *substance of things is personal*, in the sense that ‘all things have been created through him and for him’ such that ‘in him all things hold together’.¹⁴ This is the great irony of Pilate’s question: that the person who stands accused before him holds all things (τὰ πάντα) together.

Pilate’s question to Christ comes at the end of a series of ‘I am’ (ἐγώ εἰμι) statements scattered throughout the fourth gospel.¹⁵ While many of the ‘I am’ statements of Christ employ various themes, what unites them is that they all witness to the life that Christ has in the Father.¹⁶ Most pointedly, these can be summed up when Christ says, ‘I am the way, the truth, and the life’ (Εγώ εἰμι ἡ ὁδὸς καὶ ἡ ἀλήθεια καὶ ἡ ζωή).¹⁷ The initial emphasis that is on the ‘way’ (ἡ ὁδὸς) is a response to Thomas’ question, ‘how can we know the way?’¹⁸ Christ uses this opportunity¹⁹ to speak not only of himself as the ‘way’, but here he also announces that he is the way of truth *to life*²⁰—that is the life of the living Father. As the way, truth, and life, Christ points to himself

¹² Kierkegaard, *Practice in Christianity*, 203.

¹³ Ibid.; Craig S. Keener, *The Gospel of John: A Commentary*, vol. 2 (Peabody, MA: Hendrickson Publishers, 2003), 1113; Lincoln, *The Gospel According to St John*, 463. Cf. Matthew 23:31.

¹⁴ Colossians 1:16-17; John 1:3; cf. Romans 11:36.

¹⁵ For two studies on this topic see David Mark Ball, “I Am” in *John’s Gospel: Literary Function, Background and Theological Implications*, *Journal for the Study of the New Testament* 124 (Sheffield: Sheffield Academic Press, 1996); Philip B. Harner, *The “I Am” of the Fourth Gospel: A Study in Johannine Usage and Thought*, Facet Books 26 (Philadelphia, PA: Fortress, 1970).

¹⁶ Thompson says, ‘John Ashton calls “life” the core or central symbol, around which all other symbols cluster’. Marianne Meyer Thompson, *The God of the Gospel of John* (Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans, 2001), 77n.33; John Ashton, *Understanding the Fourth Gospel* (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1991), 219n.28.

¹⁷ John 14:6.

¹⁸ John 14:5.

¹⁹ Ball, “I Am” in *John’s Gospel*, 124–8.

²⁰ Cf. John 11:25 where he says he is the resurrection (ἡ ἀνάστασις) and the life.

as the person who embodies this life: ‘If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him’.²¹ This life is distinctly personal, and is focused on the very person of Christ. As Thomas Brodie says, connecting the terms way, truth, and life with that of ‘person’, ‘But Jesus uses [the designation ‘way’] of himself, and this indicates that, above all, it is by focusing on the human person that one discovers the reality of God. . . . Focusing on the human person is a way to the truth, and even though aspects of the truth may be frightening, the acceptance of it finally leads to greater freedom and vitality, in other words, to life’.²² All of these predicates are both summed up in the person of Christ as well as in the Father to whom Christ points through the Spirit.²³

This life of Christ in the “I am” statements recapitulates Exodus 3:14 when Moses is told by God that God himself is to be called “I am who I am” (*’ehyeh ’ašer ’ehyeh*). This personal God who is the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob,²⁴ tells Moses, ‘Thus you shall say to the Israelites, “I am has sent me to you.”’²⁵ Matthew Levering argues that this ‘sheer infinite existence, the one who *is* and who thus has the power to redeem Israel’²⁶ is not a mere metaphysical abstraction; on the contrary, not only does this name properly belong to God,²⁷ but this name, as theological *and* metaphysical, is a name that stands to critique all of our ‘idoltrous conceptions of the divine being, a history that flows through the inspired contemplative practices of the prophets’.²⁸ What’s more, Levering (following Thomas Weinandy) points out that the ‘I am who I am’ translation of the Septuagint, in signifying the fullness of God’s being, ‘does not render God immutably “lifeless,” but

²¹ John 14:7.

²² Thomas L. Brodie, *The Gospel According to John: A Literary and Theological Commentary* (New York and Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1993), 461–2.

²³ Cf. Ball, “*I Am*” in *John’s Gospel*, 127.

²⁴ Exodus 3:15.

²⁵ Exodus 3:14. Harner says that while Exodus 3:14 should be ruled out as a direct source for the “I am” sayings in John’s Gospel, they shouldn’t be fully ruled out as an indirect source. That is, John’s Gospel may have drawn on the Greek of the Septuagint renderings of the Tetragrammaton and Second Isaiah. See Harner, *The “I Am” of the Fourth Gospel*, 17, and 57, 60–2.

²⁶ Matthew Levering, *Scripture and Metaphysics: Aquinas and the Renewal of Trinitarian Theology*, Challenges in Contemporary Theology (Malden, MA: Wiley-Blackwell, 2004), 62.

²⁷ Thomas Aquinas, *Summa Theologica*, trans. English Dominican Fathers, 2nd revised, 1920, I, q. 13, a. 11 (hereafter ST).

²⁸ Levering, *Scripture and Metaphysics*, 65.

immutably “life-full.”²⁹ It is this ‘life-fullness’ to which Christ points when in John 8:58 he says, ‘Very truly, I tell you, before Abraham was, I am’. Marianne Meye Thompson clarifies: ‘It is not until [Christ] makes the claim “to have seen Abraham,” that is, to share in an eternal kind of life, that the people react: now he is claiming to have what God alone has. Thus the link between Jesus’ statement and the divine OT “I am” is through the middle term, life. Jesus claims to share in God’s kind of existence, eternal existence, existence that does not “come into being” but that simply “is” (8:35; 1:2,2). This life he has from the living Father (6:57; 5:26; 10:18)’.³⁰ Christ’s person is identified with the person of the God of the ‘I am’, in the life that he has in the Father.³¹ For, as Dionysius the Areopagite asks, ‘And if they do not accept that the whole Godhead is life, what truth can there be in the holy words, “As the Father raises the dead and gives them life, so also the Son gives life to whom he will,” and “It is the Spirit that gives life”?’³² Aquinas argues that because the ‘what’ and ‘how’ (the ‘whereby’ it is) are the same in God, even if one were to abstract away all the personal properties in the Godhead then the divine nature would still be ‘subsisting and as a person’, for the Jews also

²⁹ Thomas G. Weinandy, OFM, Cap, *Does God Suffer?* (Edinburgh: T&T Clark, 2000), 77; Levering, *Scripture and Metaphysics*, 61.

³⁰ Thompson, *The God of the Gospel of John*, 91–2; Ball, “*I Am*” in *John’s Gospel*, 282–3.

³¹ ‘As in [John] 13:19, the absolute *ego eimi* in 8:58 expresses the unity of the Father and the Son’ (Harner, *The “I Am” of the Fourth Gospel*, 39). Richard Bauckham highlights the repetition of the ‘I am’ statements in the Gospel of John as culminating in an emphatic climax that becomes increasingly unambiguous as the narrative proceeds. ‘More than that, they identify Jesus as the eschatological revelation of the unique identity of God, predicted by Deutero-Isaiah’. See *God Crucified* in Richard Bauckham, *Jesus and the God of Israel: God Crucified and Other Studies on the New Testament’s Christology of Divine Identity* (Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 2008), 1–59, here at 37–40. Additionally, see the illuminating discussion in Thomas Joseph White, OP, “‘Through Him All Things Were Made’ (John 1:3): The Analogy of the Word Incarnate According to St. Thomas Aquinas and Its Ontological Presuppositions,” in *The Analogy of Being: Invention of the Antichrist or the Wisdom of God?*, ed. Thomas Joseph White, OP (Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 2011), 246–79 at 261–4, where White, following Aquinas’ commentary on the Gospel of John, shows that these “I am” statements in John 8 also serve to distinguish the kind of being Jesus Christ shares with the Father as one who is *ipsum esse*, in distinction to creation, who has its existence by participation.

³² Pseudo-Dionysius, *Pseudo-Dionysius: The Complete Works*, ed. Paul Rorem, trans. Colm Luibhéid, *The Classics of Western Spirituality* (Mahwah, NJ: Paulist Press, 1987), 59 [PG 3:637AB]. The Scriptural references are to John 5:21 and 6:63. Fran O’Rourke shows how Thomas Aquinas is indebted to Dionysius in most matters, including being part of the same tradition which, ‘In naming God as Being, i.e. ὁ ὄν, or “*Qui est*”, both [Thomas Aquinas and Dionysius] refer to Exodus 3, 14’. Fran O’Rourke, *Pseudo-Dionysius and the Metaphysics of Aquinas*, *Studien Und Texte Zur Geistesgeschichte Des Mittelalters* 32 (Leiden: Brill, 1992), 130–32, here at 131.

consider God in this way, as one personality.³³ For both Christians and Jews alike, then, God is seen as a *person*, and never as an abstract, unreachable unmoved mover, unconcerned with Creation and its continued existence.³⁴

Christ stands accused, both by his fellow Jews, and also by Pilate. Yet, ‘the one who is on trial is at the same time the real judge,’³⁵ for the way, truth, and life of the living Father stands before them, placing all of their conceptions of truth and life into question. The issue here is not whether there is a truth ‘about’ or ‘concerning’ the person of Christ,³⁶ nor is the issue whether Jesus ‘has’ life;³⁷ rather, the person of Christ *is* the truth, placing all of our truths into question³⁸ (similar to the bracketing of a phenomenological *epochē*), and this same person *is* the life of the Father given for the life of the world, unashamedly in servant form.³⁹ When Pilate, Christ’s fellow Jews, and us as the reader of these Scriptures arrive at the scene of Christ before his imminent

³³ *ST*, III, q. 3, a. 3 ad 1–2.

³⁴ For a recent account of Exodus 3:14-15 in connection with the doctrine of creation ex nihilo in both Jewish and Christian traditions, see Janet Soskice, “Creatio Ex Nihilo: It’s Jewish and Christian Foundations,” in *Creation and the God of Abraham*, ed. David B. Burrell et al. (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2010), 24–39. ‘God’s undivided presence to everything in particular is in sharp contrast with what “divine eternity” meant for classical Greek philosophy’ (ibid., 30).

³⁵ Andrew T. Lincoln, *Truth on Trial: The Lawsuit Motif in the Fourth Gospel* (Peabody, MA: Hendrickson Publishers, 2000), 33.

³⁶ This would lapse into ‘onto-theology’, a phrase often used by Heidegger but coined by Immanuel Kant. On this see Martin Heidegger, “The Onto-Theological Constitution of Metaphysics,” in *Identity and Difference*, trans. Joan Stambaugh (Chicago, IL: University Of Chicago Press, 2002), 42–74. For Kant’s coinage where he differentiates cosmotheology from ontotheology under the header of transcendental theology, see Immanuel Kant, *Critique of Pure Reason*, trans. and ed. Paul Guyer and Allen W. Wood (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1998), 584. Cf. Conor Cunningham, *Genealogy of Nihilism: Philosophies of Nothing and the Difference of Theology*, Radical Orthodoxy (London: Routledge, 2002), 134., where, discussing Heidegger, Cunningham remarks, ‘For the starting point of the metaphysical (ontotheological) question is “what”? This reduces Being to a matter of thinghood and so excludes any possibility of articulating a “why” is there Being’. This thesis attempts to reformulate a Heideggerian approach by re-introducing theology into such a debate by virtue of pushing toward the ‘who’, albeit not in a univocal sense, but considered analogously. This will be explored in detail in chapters 4 and 5 below.

³⁷ Although of course Christ ‘has’ life, but only because and insofar as he *is* this own life (ζωή), the one who *is ipsum esse*.

³⁸ Cf. 1 Corinthians 8:23 and 1:23. This does not mean, contra many theologians writing today, that we must replace all reason with a kind of dialectical evacuation of all thought with a desire to erase all humanly reason; instead, all our reason only is and can be articulated insofar as it participates in the very λόγος of the the Son. Only because of Christ’s person (who is reason) can we have any reason at all. Stanley Grenz seemed to take this route in his very instructive (but flawed due to its being overdetermined by an Heideggerian analysis) analysis in Stanley J. Grenz, *The Named God and the Question Of Being: A Trinitarian Theology* (Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, 2005).

³⁹ Matthew 12:18; Matthew 20:26-28; Mark 10:45; Philippians 2:6-7.

trial, we find out that the truth and life of the Father are *this incarnation*, fully human, fully divine, and it is only in this person that truth and life begin at all. Because the person of Christ recapitulates (ἀνακεφαλαιώσις) all human and divine truths in himself and does so in a triune ‘personal’ way as he witnesses (μαρτυρεῖν) to the Father in the giving of the Spirit who is also truth and life⁴⁰ — the ‘effect’ of this truth upon creation is that we now must experience and conceive of truth and life not only first and primarily *as* the person of Christ, but also of the human person first and perfectly revealed in the person of the absolute paradox, as Kierkegaard (as Climacus) called him.⁴¹ For if God reveals true humanity to men and women,⁴² then analogously, the second person of the Trinity must also therefore reveal to us persons what it means to be a person. As the second Adam, Christ reveals himself in his recapitulatory logic to be the first Adam; the last will be first and the first shall be last.⁴³

b. *The Plan of this Thesis: The Contested Person*

An exploration of the person and the personal truth of things in modernity’s (and post-modernity’s) wake faces severe challenges. No longer does the term

⁴⁰ For the truth as appropriated to the Son, see Aquinas, Thomas Aquinas, *De Veritate*, trans. Robert W. Mulligan, James V. McGlynn, and Robert W. Schmidt (Chicago, IL: Henry Regnery Company, 1952), I, q. 7 (hereafter *De Ver.*); *ST*, I, q. 39, a. 8. Also see the excellent discussion in Gilles Emery OP, “Trinity and Truth: The Son as Truth and the Spirit of Truth in St. Thomas Aquinas,” in *Trinity, Church, and the Human Person*, Faith & Reason: Studies in Catholic Theology & Philosophy (Naples, FL: Sapientia Press of Ave Maria University, 2007), 73–114.

⁴¹ Søren Kierkegaard, *Repetition and Philosophical Crumbs*, trans. M. G. Piety, Oxford World’s Classics (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2009), 111–20.

⁴² *Gaudium et Spes*, §22 in Austin Flannery OP, ed., *Vatican Council II: Volume 1: The Conciliar and Postconciliar Documents*, New Revised (Northport, NY: Costello Publishing Company, 1998), 922.

⁴³ Matthew 19.30, 20.16; Mark 10.31. See the excellent discussion of this in Conor Cunningham, *Darwin’s Pious Idea: Why the Ultra-Darwinists and Creationists Both Get It Wrong* (Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans, 2010), 392–400. See also the illuminating discussion of Irenaeus on this point in Peter C. Bouteneff, *Beginnings: Ancient Christian Readings of the Biblical Creation Narratives* (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2008), 77–85, esp. 81–82, where Boutneff comments, “In the divine scheme of things, Christ comes first, then Adam. This is not to be mistaken for another assertion that the ‘preexisting Logos’ was the agent of the creation of the cosmos, including Adam. In effect, the crucified and risen Lord comes first, and Adam is made with reference to him. The nature of the recapitulation, which puts Christ at the center of the human trajectory from creation to salvation, is therefore such that Irenaeus can speak of Adam as being made in the image of the incarnate Christ (*AH* 4.33.4).”

'person' refer to a subsistent reality possessing of a rational nature (not that such a designation is sufficient); but furthermore, no longer is the person even seen as a dialogical reality wherein one relates to others and others relate to the self precisely because the person possesses an incommunicable dignity. Michel Foucault's comments on the disappearance of man are well-known.⁴⁴ The person has seemingly disappeared, and in its wake are, on the one hand, various Romantic existentialisms (e.g., Jean-Paul Sartre) where one must create oneself *ex nihilo*, or, on the other, what is left in the disintegrated aftermath is the tragic embrace of persons as 'nothing but' a mere collection of atoms, processes, or psychological drives. The following passage from Philip Roth's novel *The Counterlife* deserves to be quoted at length, for it captures this tragic spirit:

There is no you, Maria, any more than there's a me. There is only this way that we have established over the months of performing together, and what it is congruent with isn't "ourselves" but past performances—we're has-beens at heart, routinely trotting out the old, old act. What is the role I demand of you? I couldn't describe it, but I don't have to—you are such a great intuitive actress you *do* it, almost with no direction at all, an extraordinarily controlled and seductive performance. Is it a role that's foreign to you? Only if you wish to pretend that it is. It's *all* impersonation—in the absence of a self, one impersonates selves, and after a while impersonates best the self that best gets one through. If you were to tell me that there are people, like the man upstairs to whom you now threaten to turn yourself in, who actually do have *a strong sense of themselves*, I would have to tell you that they are only impersonating people with a strong sense of themselves—to which you could correctly reply that since there is no way of proving whether I'm right or not, this is a circular argument from which there is no escape.

All I can tell you with certainty is that I, for one, have no self, and that I am unwilling or unable to perpetrate upon myself the joke of a self. It certainly does strike me as a joke about *my* self. What I have instead is a variety of impersonations I can do, and not only of myself—a troupe of players that I have internalized, a permanent company of actors that I can call upon when a self is required, an ever-evolving stock of pieces and parts that forms my repertoire. But I certainly have no self

⁴⁴ Michel Foucault, *The Order of Things: An Archaeology of the Human Sciences* (New York: Vintage Books, 1970), 342: "It is no longer possible to think in our day other than in the void left by man's disappearance. For this void does not create a deficiency; it does not constitute a lacuna that must be filled. It is nothing more, and nothing less, than the unfolding of a space in which it is once more possible to think."

independent of my imposturing, artistic efforts to have one. Nor would I want one. I am a theater and nothing more than a theater.⁴⁵

These words from the character Nathan Zuckerman admit not only to a ‘circular argument’—and thus the entire mood is self-consciously question-begging—but these words also betray a sense of constant collection of ‘pieces and parts’ that reduces one to ‘nothing more than a theater’ where what is played out is *anything but* the life of a person. It is fashionable to reduce the human person to ‘merely’ this or that, ‘only really’ this, or ‘nothing but’ some smaller part. This approach has become so wide-spread that those who offer more unifying accounts of the person such as G. K. Chesterton, C. S. Lewis, and Donald McKay have disparaged this reductionism—and rightly so—as ‘Nothing Buttery’.⁴⁶

The truth is that there never was a stable and universally-agreed-upon conception of the person, as its meaning was always worked out amidst struggles with competing theologies and philosophies. We cannot simply defend the integrity of the person with trite formulae, as such an endeavour would itself be a reduction of the person. Nor can we *simply* point to the person of Jesus as a pat answer; a fuller Christological account is needed,⁴⁷ which takes into consideration the life of the Trinity as manifested in the person of Christ within a Creation that is held together in and through the same person without which nothing was made.⁴⁸ Such a challenge is articulated in the following remarks made by Graham Ward: ‘beginning with the human body, even if it belongs to Jesus of Nazareth, capitulates, to some extent, to modern individualism’. Even taking the person of Jesus Christ as one’s theological and philosophical starting point does not grant one a free pass to overcome this individualism, for, ‘[t]o focus...simply on Christ isolates once more this body as the object under investigation and prevents an understanding of the body as multiple, the body as belonging to, and

⁴⁵ Philip Roth, *The Counterlife* (London: Penguin Books, 1986), 324–5, emphases in the original.

⁴⁶ I owe the discovery of this designation to Smith, *What Is a Person?*, 37 and 37n.15.

⁴⁷ See, e.g., the work of Aaron Riches, *Christ, the End of Humanism* (Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 2013). Much of the present thesis is indebted to the insights of Riches’ research.

⁴⁸ John 1:3.

participating in, numerous corporations, the body as enacted within a diverse range of scenarios, each of which stages different meanings and values that transcend the modern atomized individual who is set adrift on a sea of choices'.⁴⁹ Ward refers here to the human person's idea of the self shaped in the aftermath of a whole host of modern thinkers who isolate the person from its participation in realities beyond itself. Truly, the modern conception of the self is one that is no longer 'porous' but what Charles Taylor has called the 'buffered self'.⁵⁰

Similarly, from a systematic theological perspective, Karl Rahner in his work *The Trinity* has raised similar concerns regarding the use of 'person' as a sufficient designation for the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit of the Trinity.⁵¹ Rahner notes that when today we use the word 'person', it is always to designate 'several spiritual centers of activity, of several subjectivities and liberties'.⁵² While this is not the place just yet to get into a detailed examination of language used to refer to the persons, hypostases, or, as Rahner proposes, 'distinct manners of subsisting',⁵³ the crux of the issue for Rahner is that previously, before the 'anthropcentric turn', 'person' used to mean the particular subsistence (primarily) of a rational nature (secondarily), whereas now 'modern times requires that the spiritual-subjective element in the concept of person be first understood'.⁵⁴ Accordingly, as Lewis Ayres notes, 'Modern notions of personhood ... do not simply introduce too much division into the Trinity, they run the risk of corrupting the basic pro-Nicene sense of the mysterious and incomprehensible union of the Godhead'.⁵⁵ Abuse does not constitute use, and so Rahner, wisely, does not want to jettison the use of person completely. He thus realizes it needs to be defended from

⁴⁹ Graham Ward, *The Politics of Discipleship: Becoming Postmaterial Citizens*, The Church and Postmodern Culture (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2009), 225–6.

⁵⁰ Charles Taylor, *A Secular Age* (Cambridge, MA: Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, 2007), 37–42, 134–42, 262–4, 300–7; See also Taylor's earlier study, *Sources of the Self: The Making of the Modern Identity* (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1992).

⁵¹ Karl Rahner, *The Trinity*, trans. Joseph Donceel, *Mysterium Salutis* (London: Burns & Oates; Herder and Herder, 1970), 103–15.

⁵² *Ibid.*, 106.

⁵³ *Ibid.*, 110–11.

⁵⁴ *Ibid.*, 108.

⁵⁵ Lewis Ayres, *Nicaea and Its Legacy: An Approach to Fourth-Century Trinitarian Theology* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2004), 412; on this Ayres cites John Milbank, *The Word Made Strange: Theology, Language and Culture* (Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell, 1996), 174ff.

misunderstandings but also continually clarified in light of the above challenges.⁵⁶

While Rahner's concerns are merited, the situation is far worse than that of an opposition between modern subjectivism on the one hand and classical persons-as-subsistent-entities on the other. In fact, the levels of antipathy towards entire groups of persons has reached a feverish peak in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries with a number of horrific genocides, and while racism and war are nothing new, the sheer numbers of the dead in the wars from the twentieth century seem to surpass anything that has come before. Persons of all types do not stand merely accused, but they all too often fall under the very real threat of slander: one is told, 'you are *merely* your genes', 'you are *nothing but* your race', etc.

In light of this situation, in Chapter Two below, I take a look at an account of accusation regarding the status of the person in recent history. This involves the case of Alfred Dreyfus and the subsequent 'Dreyfus Affair' that took place in Paris in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. At issue here are two kinds of accusation: the first against Dreyfus, but also the logic of accusation in that leveled by Emile Zola's 'J'Accuse...!' article. There I attempt to untangle the deeper form of accusation at work in both of their cases. The affair proves enlightening on multiple levels for the purposes of this thesis. First, it shows the stark reality of the slandered person of Alfred Dreyfus in light of his attackers. He was reduced to his Jewish race in such a way that his personhood was cast aside. Secondly, the importance of this case also reveals a deeper nuance in the logic of accusation itself—that of testimony. For accusation itself may not always be synonymous with slander (as in the situation of Zola). In light of the Dreyfus Affair, therefore, I also look at the writings of Charles Péguy, whose language of '*mystique*' in contrast to that of '*politique*' provides the beginnings of the analogical shape of this thesis: that of an animated, life-full existence suspended between the temporal and the eternal.

⁵⁶ Rahner, *The Trinity*, 108–9.

Chapter Three substantially explores the ethics of accusation in Levinas, for he alone in the twentieth century has so closely tied a personal ethic of alterity (of ‘the Face’) with that of accusation of the other. Levinas ties his claim of the Other that accuses to the grammatical case of the ‘accusative’ in such a way that it escapes Being (which for him is anything in the ‘nominative’ case). I unpack the moves that Levinas makes with reference to his grammar and ontology, where I close by contrasting him to the thought of Franz Rosenzweig and Michel Henry, who also make uses of the accusative case, not by disavowing Being, but by radically affirming it. Here I show how the ‘accusative’ that Levinas inscribes into persecution does not of necessity entail the radical rupture that he intends it to, but, when considered rightly, actually witnesses to a further, primary truth, remarkably similar to the logic of testimony traced out from the chapter on Dreyfus.

If rupture and radical heterogeneity vis-à-vis ‘the other’ characterize the path of modern and post-modern metaphysics, then it will be argued that a proper response to this will not involve a retreat into personal identity as such, for this would be to oppose equivocity with univocity; rather, in Part II, I will be arguing that persons are inherently *analogical*. Chapter Four begins by summarizing a crucially-missing aspect of the proper understanding of adequation in Levinas and then begins the process of a constructive analogical account of the person. Before turning to the debate surrounding analogy itself in Chapter Five, this fourth chapter is devoted to the path of the analogical act of judgment: first, I proceed philosophically in the path of resolution (*resolutio*) in order to arrive—simultaneously—at Being and the person in a reflexive moment of judgement that views the latter as the primary analogate of the former; second, the person as we understand it cannot be accounted for univocally in God, and so here I take a look at the analogical distance between human and divine persons in the latter’s highest perfection; lastly, I turn to the logic of recapitulation as articulated in St Irenaeus of Lyons, for it is here that we can finally ‘arrive at the arrival’ of the person. Thus the shape of the chapter proceeds first philosophically, but as such, the act of analogical judgment affirms in faith that the person is revealed truly and utterly *first* as the person of Christ.

Chapter Five turns to the much disputed question of analogy in Thomas Aquinas, who is covered in the chapter's first two sections. In the third section of the chapter I turn to the work of Erich Przywara. In detail, the chapter is as follows: Section a) outlines the logic of analogy in Thomas with regard both to being and to the person. Analogy provides not only a middle way to articulate persons, but also shows that, properly conceived, there can ultimately be no other way *as creatures* to speak about persons. Section b) of this chapter is substantially a response to the critiques of the Eastern Orthodox philosopher Christos Yannaras against the notion of analogy in Thomas Aquinas and 'the West'. Here I show that Yannaras' polemics, while appropriate when aimed at certain forms of neo-Scholasticism, fall flat when Thomas' work is properly understood as involving an analogy of judgment—not that of *concepts*. The final section of this chapter turns to Erich Przywara and his work on the *Analogia Entis*. Przywara extends and updates Thomas' logic for the twentieth century in ways that complement the existential rhythms of the creaturely. I do not go into the literature concerning the debate between Przywara and Karl Barth, but instead, the scope of this section is to show that Przywara's *Analogia Entis*, and especially his later work, are not only Christologically- and Incarnationally-focused, but finally come together as coextensively an *analogia entis* and an *analogia personae*. Revealed here is a concomitant focus upon the form of service, both in the philosophical adequation to the object, but also and more primarily in its theological shape as affirmed in the person of Christ.

The sixth and final chapter of this thesis extends the analogy of the person into the dialogue between the person, creation, and the Triune God, which culminates in that claim that, by analogy to the inter-personal nature of God, persons are inherently *dialogical* beings. The argument of this chapter is not aimed primarily at the level of 'conversation', but that of the personal form and constitution of humans as dialogical persons who themselves exist in and *through (dia)* the logos of Christ (the *Logos*), and that of creation who acts as the second term in the dialogue. The chapter first outlines the Socratic-Platonic form of dialogue which answers the question, 'Why did Plato write dialogues?' The dialogical form bears witness to the shape of reason in that

the truest form of reason is that which is Life. In this respect, the next section looks at the dilemma of *aporia* in the Socratic dialogues, confronting the impasses that arise not only in the Socratic dialogue itself, but in the work of Heidegger and Derrida, the latter of whom makes especial use of the aporetic. Derrida's aneconomic use of the *aporia* serves as the backdrop for his guiding logic behind the gift, friendship, and hospitality, but here I look at his *aporia* of death and contrast it with that of Søren Kierkegaard's discourse 'At a Graveside' in conjunction with the theology of the Eastern Orthodox theologian John Behr to show that the truest *aporia* is the earnest life following the path of the crucified Christ—that is, living a 'life in death'. The final sections of this chapter proceed into an analogy of 'call and response' in three sections. The first looks at the work of Jean-Louis Chrétien and Johann Georg Hamann to illustrate the call of beauty to the creature enacted in the beginnings of a dialogical response in and through creation. Next, before attending to the 'response', I illustrate how Christos Yannaras' account of dialogue as *dia-logos* provides an analogy for the 'reflexive reversal' of the metaphysical *via resolutionis* of the analogical act of judgment. Finally, the response of the person, which comes too late, is itself a response to the person of Christ. These final pages show that a continued struggle against univocity—here described as 'monologue'—remains a perpetual temptation in providing an account of the person as dialogue. Hans Urs von Balthasar, Mikhail Bakhtin, and Karol Wojtyła/John Paul II provide crucial resources in this regard toward the fruitfulness of a *communio personarum*.

This thesis provides a look at the person as primarily analogical and dialogical. As accused and slandered amidst the mob, or amidst the attempts to account for humans within the logics of radical heterogeneity, to that end I claim that such attempts ultimately *bear false witness* to the person. In other words, they are complicit in a *lie* about who persons are and the depth of the mystery that is each one of us. To the extent that one upholds the logic of the person in its richness, one may still be 'accused', but they would be accused only insofar as they still bear truthful witness to the person of Christ. Bearing truthful witness to the person of Christ requires patiently tarrying with the richness of the person in all its analogical and dialogical splendor. But, I argue

below that, in order to do so, this journey, in order to be truthful, must affirm that the prime analogate of Being is the human person. As *Gaudium et Spes* puts it, ‘all things on earth should be ordained to man as to their center and summit’.⁵⁷ Moreover, without the person as ordered to the *Logos* that calls him or her, one is left amidst the babble of monological boredom.

A dialogical existence in Christ must, therefore, participate in the same event of the person of Christ in his life, death, and resurrection. Human persons thus ‘stand accused’ by participating in the same Passion of Christ during Holy Week. Yet, ‘standing accused’ is not the final resting place of Christ (for this is at the right hand of the Father), but in these pages I show that the logic of analogy and dialogue illustrate the beauty and manifold truth in the original gift of the Son in which we analogically participate by faith in in which human persons become sons and daughters of God through adoption. To bear witness to the truth of the Son is a risk, for mere human language alone does not have the same power and authority that Christ himself possessed in his divine-human ability to testify to himself. We meet Christ in the ‘accusative’, and participate in Christ’s own testimony, in the dialogical regard for the neighbor, not only outside the city gates, hung on a tree to die, but more truly in the *communio personarum*. It is here where we look back toward the life, death, and resurrection of Christ, nourished; thus may we look forward in anticipation toward an analogical participation through him in the Father by the gift of the Spirit.

⁵⁷ *Gaudium et Spes* §12 in Flannery OP, *Vatican Council II*, 913.

CHAPTER 2

THE SLANDERED PERSON AND THE *MYSTIQUE* OF THE DREYFUS AFFAIR

'I swear on the head of my children that I am innocent. If I were shown the incriminating items, I might perhaps understand. For eleven days, I have been kept in secrecy, and I still don't know of what I am accused.'

– Alfred Dreyfus¹

'I argue this from the fact that though I am accused of something, I cannot recall the slightest offence that might be charged against me. But that even is of minor importance, the real question is, who accuses me?'

– Joseph K. in *The Trial*²

'If we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we guide their whole bodies. Or look at ships: though they are so large that it takes strong winds to drive them, yet they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs. So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great exploits. How great a forest is set ablaze by a small fire! And the tongue is a fire.'

– James 3:3-6

a. *The Dreyfus Affair and Bearing Witness*

The case of Alfred Dreyfus³ and the larger and explosive 'Dreyfus Affair'⁴ is instructive for our purposes of further delineating the stakes and grammar of

¹ Minutes of October 24, 1894, cited in Jean-Denis Bredin, *The Affair: The Case of Alfred Dreyfus*, trans. Jeffrey Mehlman (London: Sidgwick & Jackson, 1987), 71.

² Franz Kafka, *Franz Kafka; The Trial / America / In The Penal Settlement / Metamorphosis / The Castle / The Great Wall of China / Investigations of a Dog / Letter to His Father / The Diaries 1910-23* (Norwich: Secker & Warburg/Octopus, 1976), 18.

³ For the standard historical accounts, see Joseph Reinach, *Histoire De l'Affaire*, 7 vols. (Paris: La Revue Blanche and Fasquelle, 1901); Bredin, *The Affair*; Ruth Harris, *The Man on Devil's Island: Alfred Dreyfus and the Affair That Divided France* (London: Allen Lane, 2010); Albert S. Lindemann, *The Jew Accused: Three Anti-Semitic Affairs (Dreyfus, Beilis, Frank) 1894-1915* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1991); Leslie Derfler, *The Dreyfus Affair*, Greenwood Guides to Historical Events, 1500-1900 (Westport, CT and London: Greenwood Press, 2002); Stephen Wilson, *Ideology and Experience: Antisemitism in France at the Time of the Dreyfus Affair* (London: Farleigh Dickinson University Press, 1982); Owen Morgan, "'J'accuse...!': Zola and the Dreyfus Affair," in *The Cambridge Companion to Zola*, ed. Brian Nelson (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2007), 188–205.

⁴ Lindemann attempts to temper assumption that the Affair was a universal French phenomenon: 'Recent scholarship has ... shown rather conclusively that the Dreyfus Affair has been overdramatized, its long-range significance exaggerated. Its immediate impact throughout France was less extensive than once believed. Captain Dreyfus's story has been too tempting, too appealing to the popular vulgarizing kind of historian, and too appealing to various political agendas, such as those Zionist interpretations of modern history that emphasize European decadence, ineradicable Jew-hatred, Jewish self-hatred and inauthenticity, and the need for the Jews to leave Europe. Intellectuals have been especially

the debate which follows. In December 1894 in Paris, Captain Alfred Dreyfus, a Jew of Alsatian descent, was falsely convicted of treasonously betraying military secrets to Germany and was soon thereafter sentenced to life on Devil's Island. The entire Affair was constructed on myriad false premises, and over the course of the ensuing years, Dreyfus's family, the public, and members of the military would be fighting for both his innocence (the 'Dreyfusards') and his guilt (the 'anti-Dreyfusards'). Despite the fact that the real culprit of the crime was Major Ferdinand Walsin Esterhazy, the Parisian General Staff, backed by a largely anti-Semitic public, did their best to promote Dreyfus's guilt at all costs.

While anti-Semitism is most likely not to blame for the initial suspicions around Dreyfus, it is clear that it became not only a major factor in his incarceration but in Dreyfus's subsequent public dishonouring and the events that followed over the course of the next decade.⁵ In the dishonouring before a large blood-thirsty and anti-Semitic public, Dreyfus's insignia were torn from his uniform and his sword broken. The crowd shouted cries of 'Death! Death to the Jew!', 'Death to Judas!' and 'Coward! Judas! Dirty Jew!'⁶ Written accounts of the event reveal the utter dehumanization on display: 'Meanwhile, he approached, between his guards, a walking corpse, a zombie on parade, frail to all appearances, but magnified by the overwhelming shame and hatred that he evoked. Not far from us, he managed to find the energy to cry out "Innocent!" in a toneless and precipitous voice. And there he was before me, at the instant of passing, his eyes dry, his gaze lost in the past, no doubt, since the future had died with his honour. He no longer had an age, a name, a complexion.'⁷ Léon Daudet and especially Maurice Barrès both emphasized

drawn to the story; it has been hard for them to accept that most people in France, who were not intellectuals, in spite of the unusual prestige of intellectualism in parts of the country, were not as drawn to the Affair as much as they. Recent studies have shown how little the peasantry and the population of small towns, still a majority of the population of France, were touched by the Affair' (Lindemann, *The Jew Accused*, 125). While Lindemann's warnings are sound, I see no reason to assume that the Affair need be totally widespread in France for it to be at least instructive, let alone of utmost continuing importance.

⁵See *Ibid.*, 97.

⁶ See the account in Bredin, *The Affair*, 4–5.

⁷Léon Daudet, "Le châtiment," *Le Figaro*, January 6, 1895, cited in Bredin, *The Affair*, 5–6. This is echoed by other reports: 'Dreyfus is no longer a man; he is a number in a chain gang' (on the pages of *Le Petit Journal*, January 6, 1895, cited in Bredin, *The Affair*, 109). And also the anti-Semitism of Maurice Barrès: 'Dreyfus is the representative of a different

Dreyfus's 'foreign physiognomy' and Barrès would even go so far as to announce: 'That Dreyfus is capable of treason I deduce from his race'.⁸ These racist remarks continued to pepper the public landscape throughout the Dreyfus Affair. France was obsessed with not only the constant threat of treason, but now that it was able to direct its energies on a chosen culprit, it was evident that '[t]he obsession with treason was inseparable from the thirst for revenge'.⁹

By most accounts, the height of the Dreyfus Affair took place with the publication of Emile Zola's "J'Accuse...!" on 13 January 1898.¹⁰ Three days earlier, the real author behind the sole piece of evidence entitled the '*bordeau*' that was used to convict Dreyfus—Major Esterhazy—was taken to trial and acquitted. In Zola's 'J'Accuse...!', he set out to correct the public record regarding the Affair, which culminated in a litany of 'I Accuse' (*J'Accuse*) statements against all those who were at fault in the fiasco.¹¹ The final litany turned out to be so incendiary that Zola himself stated in the final paragraphs of the piece itself that he knew full well that he was committing the crime of libel.¹² Bredin, a historian of the Affair, describes the 'entire text of *J'Accuse* [as] an indictment of the forces and virtues of traditional France, its religious

species...The problem of race has been raised' (Maurice Barrès, *Scènes et doctrines du nationalisme* [Paris: Félix Juven, 1902], 130, cited in Bredin, *The Affair*, 296).

⁸ Barrès, *Scènes et doctrines du nationalisme*, 152, cited in Bredin, *The Affair*, 6.

⁹ Bredin, *The Affair*, 42.

¹⁰ Published in *Le Aurore*, which, on that day, had a circulation of over 300,000, ten times the normal distribution. This fact alone provides some evidence against Lindemann's warning cited above in fn. 4. See Emile Zola, "Letter to M. Félix Faure, President of the Republic ('J'Accuse'), *Le Aurore*, 13 January 1898," in *The Dreyfus Affair: "J'Accuse" and Other Writings*, ed. Alain Pagès, trans. Eleanor Levieux (New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 1998), 43–53, for the full English text.

¹¹ As both Bredin and Pagès note, there were in some items that Zola got wrong in his accusations, but based on the information available to him, he could not have known otherwise, and did not deter from the overall point he was making. Pagès lists these as 'the excessive role attributed to du Paty de Clam, whereas [Commandant] Henry is not mentioned, and the unduly heavy accusations leveled at de Pellieux and the handwriting experts' (Alain Pagès, 'Introduction' in Emile Zola, *The Dreyfus Affair: "J'Accuse" and Other Writings*, ed. Alain Pagès, trans. Eleanor Levieux (New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 1998), xxxiv). Bredin, *The Affair*, 249, adds: '[Zola] minimized the role of General Gonse. He did not see the essential responsibility of General Mercier. ...He was mistaken about the hierarchy of their roles'.

¹² 'In making these accusations, I am fully aware that my action comes under Articles 30 and 31 of the law of 29 July 1881 on the press, which makes libel a punishable offence. I deliberately expose myself to that law' (Zola, "'J'Accuse...!'," 53). And Bredin, *The Affair*, 247 states, 'Zola knew the risks he was taking. He saw the crimes and misdemeanors in writing his text and also the hatred and resentment it would unleash'.

passion, military spirit, and hierarchies, which required Dreyfus's conviction and then Esterhazy's acquittal'.¹³

The forces in question that Zola put to the fire were the strong tendencies to abstraction which subjects the truth to utilitarian ends and at its worst dehumanises people for the aims of bloodlust and revenge.¹⁴ In a piece written prior to 'J'Accuse...!', Zola made the following astute observation: 'Captain Dreyfus was convicted of the crime of treason by a court martial. From that instant he ceased to be a man and became The Traitor, an abstraction embodying the idea of the fatherland slain and delivered over to a conquering enemy. He stands not only for present treason and future treason but for past treason as well, for our old defeat is blamed on him by those who stubbornly cling to the notion that only because we were betrayed were we beaten'.¹⁵ Zola clearly saw, in a kind of pre-Girardian analysis, that Dreyfus was no longer simply a man, being reduced to any number of abstractions to hide their own insecurities and failures.¹⁶ In an effort to turn the tables on the debate, Zola, in his numerous newspapers articles and pamphlets, recast the terms of the Affair as one that announced: 'It is *anti-Semitism itself* that is on trial'.¹⁷ When Zola published 'J'Accuse...!', in reprimanding the General Staff for sending an innocent man to prison as a traitor, he remarked, 'Truth itself and justice itself have been slapped in the face'.¹⁸ Zola's personification of truth and justice¹⁹

¹³ Bredin, *The Affair*, 251.

¹⁴ 'The truth! What do you think the truth can be in an affair such as this, which is shaking an entire venerable organization to its very foundations? Do you suppose the truth is some simple object that you can carry about at will in the palm of your hand and casually place in other people's hands, like a little stone, an apple?' Emile Zola, "'The Minutes', Le Figaro, 5 December 1897," in *The Dreyfus Affair: "J'Accuse" and Other Writings*, ed. Alain Pagès, trans. Eleanor Levieux (New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 1998), 25.

¹⁵ Emile Zola, "'The Syndicate', Le Figaro, 1 December 1897," in *The Dreyfus Affair: "J'Accuse" and Other Writings*, ed. Alain Pagès, trans. Eleanor Levieux (New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 1998), 14.

¹⁶ On the concepts of the scapegoat, violence, and mimetic desire, see the following texts of Girard: René Girard, *Violence and the Sacred*, trans. Patrick Gregory, New Ed, Continuum Impacts (London: Continuum, 2005); René Girard, *The Scapegoat*, trans. Yvonne Freccero (Baltimore, MD: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1986); René Girard, *I See Satan Fall Like Lightning*, trans. James G. Williams (Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 2001).

¹⁷ Zola, "'The Minutes'," 24, emphasis mine.

¹⁸ Zola, "'J'Accuse...!'," 43.

¹⁹ Indeed, on the other side of the debate, as Griffiths notes, 'As the passions of the Affair became even more heated...the words 'justice' and 'vérité' in public pronouncements became increasingly terms of abuse in themselves. From concern at the supposed deformation of the concepts, the anti-Dreyfusards arrived at the hatred of the words themselves'. Richard

make the vivid point that the trial of anti-Semitism and hatred must commence, and, with the publication of 'J'Accuse...!' itself becoming the apogee of the Affair's drama, Zola would even go so far as to incriminate himself libellously—all this for the sake of the tarnished face of truth and justice.

It is at this point that it is opportune to analyze the 'logic' of personhood in light of the logic of accusation.

Alfred Dreyfus is wrongfully accused as a traitor and subsequently, continually tarred as a 'Judas' and dehumanized in an overtly racist manner. While the angry mob took to the streets and committed mass acts of violence all over France²⁰ and in the violent rhetoric in the newspapers, the minority of Dreyfus's defenders had to resort to a few newspaper editorials in his defence and through means outside the courts.²¹ Thus filled with righteous anger, Zola publishes 'J'Accuse...!' two days after Esterhazy's acquittal, whose tone is that of a 'scarcely contained fury'.²² The level of passion might have attained to the same heights as the rhetorical violence in the other newspapers, but the logic at work in Zola's 'J'Accuse...!' bears witness to the truth from within an economy of veracity that should not be lost sight of amidst these passions.

Zola accuses the perpetrators of the Affair, one after the other, for their various misdeeds and conspiracies, and, for the most part, he is correct.²³ Harkening back to our earlier conversation, does not Zola implicate himself in the economy of accusation? We know he does, and he admits to his crimes of libel. But who is Zola accusing? Zola answers, 'As for the persons [*gens*] I

Griffiths, *The Use of Abuse: The Polemics of the Dreyfus Affair and Its Aftermath*, Berg French Studies (New York: Berg, 1991), 28–9 and see 37.

²⁰ See Harris, *The Man on Devil's Island*, 118–20, 125–28.

²¹ Hannah Arendt, *The Origins of Totalitarianism*, 2nd ed. (Cleveland and New York: Meridian Books, 1962), 115: 'The disturbing thing about the Dreyfus Affair is that it was not only the mob which had to work along extraparliamentary lines. The entire minority, fighting as it was for parliament, democracy, and the republic, was likewise constrained to wage its battle outside the Chamber. The only difference between the two elements was that while the one used the streets, the other resorted to the press and the courts. In other words, the whole of France's political life during the Dreyfus crisis was carried on outside of parliament'. Arendt's large point here is correct, but seems to miss the continual racist and vitriolic drumbeat sounded in the anti-Dreyfusard press by the likes of Maurice Barrès and others.

²² Griffiths, *The Use of Abuse*, 136. Griffiths even seems to lament that Zola had resorted to the same level of dirty polemics as those of the anti-Dreyfusards; see *Ibid.*, 141.

²³ See fn. 11 above.

have accused, I do not know them; I have never seen them; I feel no rancour or hatred towards them. To me, they are mere entities, mere embodiments of social malfeasance. And the action I am taking here is merely a revolutionary means to hasten the explosion of truth and justice'.²⁴ Anti-Semitism is on trial, Zola tells us earlier, so it is in keeping with this sentiment that he accuses the people involved in the cover-up of truth and justice. Yet Zola's goal is not to condemn them *personally*, but ultimately to show how these people serve as stand-ins or 'entities' that embody this 'social malfeasance' of anti-Semitic hatred. At this juncture it appears that Zola, however, may be guilty of personal abstraction as well—and this is just what some anti-Dreyfusards alleged.²⁵ Are Zola and the anti-Dreyfusards employing the same logic of dehumanization and reduction?

While the difference may at first seem negligible, the fact that Zola is 'right' in his Dreyfusard stance while the accused are 'wrong' in their anti-Dreyfusard vitriol—this fact does not suffice to legitimate Zola's 'correct' stance in the end, in and of itself (suspending for a moment that such an 'ends justifying the means' methodology would ever be acceptable). Rather, there is actually a correctness of means as well at work in Zola's accusatory logic. To make sense of what is at work in Zola's accusations, we note here that the logic of accusing is in fact not diabolical in and of itself, *viz.*, diabolical (διάβολος) in the sense of slandering and thus falsely accusing. It is true that the word for the devil in the Old Testament is the Hebrew word for accuser (śāṭān), but the word for 'accuser' in the New Testament has a wider semantic range, instead referring to the devil by the specific terms διάβολος a total of 37 times and σατανᾶς 36 times. Only once in the New Testament is accuser used in its Greek equivalent to mean the same thing as that in the Old

²⁴ Zola, "'J'Accuse...!'", 53. I have modified the translation to read 'explosion' [*l'explosion*] rather than the given 'revelation', as explosion works more coherently with the previous statement in 'J'Accuse...!' which reads, 'if the truth is buried underground, it swells and grows and becomes so explosive that the day it bursts, it blows everything open along with it. Time will tell; we shall see whether we have not prepared for some later date, the most resounding disaster' (Ibid., 52).

²⁵ 'The intellectuals supporting Dreyfus's case were dividing France and in judging "everything abstractly," understood nothing of the true nation: "I am not an intellectual," proclaimed Barrès, "and I desire above all that people speak in French.'" Bredin, *The Affair*, 296 citing Barrès, *Scènes Et Doctrines Du Nationalisme*, 40ff.

Testament, found in Revelation 12:10. In John 5:45-7 we see ‘accuser’ used in a different sense than that of devil or slanderer: that of one who accuses rightly. Here the figure of Moses acts as the ‘accuser’ of Christ’s fellow Jews. Christ says, ‘Do not think that I will accuse you before the Father; your accuser is Moses [ὁ κατηγορῶν ὑμῶν Μωϋσῆς], on whom you have set your hope. If you believed Moses, you would believe me, for he wrote about me. But if you do not believe what he wrote, how will you believe what I say?’ For the Scriptures testify [μαρτυροῦσαι] on behalf of Christ (John 5:39), and it is within their testimony that Christ says they will be found accused. In sum, such an accusation falls within the economy of bearing *truthful witness*.

True, the scribes and Pharisees who accused the woman caught in adultery in John 8:2-12 were consumed with accusations of the diabolical, but for this reason: they had forgotten that they were just like her, that is, not without sin [Ὁ ἀναμάρτητος]. They had reduced her to a ‘not other’ and ultimately not to a *someone* but a *something*. Thus, the accusers had to put down their stones—both literal and figurative—for love itself had stooped down in order to erase her sins by writing in the sand.²⁶ The logic of the accusation at work here is one that removes oneself from the economy of implication. (The irony here is that the only one even ‘allowed’ to accuse the adulterous woman because he had no sin—the Jewish God-man—in fact forgives the woman, and the rest of us, all together.) To provide a summary of such a logic of accusation which ultimately bears the form of slander, it would be that such a reduction *bears false witness* to the truth of Christ, and in turn, to the truth of the human person. At odds, therefore, are two different kinds of bearing witness, or testifying.

The previously-mentioned kind of accusatory logic which *does* implicate oneself in the economy of sin and wrong is a kind of ‘symbolic’ accusation in the literal sense of a ‘bringing together’ of the desired ends of personhood. Moses can act as an ‘accuser’, as one who also testifies to the person of Christ

²⁶ See the beautiful discourse ‘Love Will Hide a Multitude of Sins’ in Søren Kierkegaard, *Eighteen Upbuilding Discourses*, trans. and ed. Howard V. Hong and Edna H. Hong, Kierkegaard’s Writings V (Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 1990), 55–68.

(John 5:39); that is, Moses stands in as one who ‘accuses’ only to testify to the truth, as one who calls for those in question to be truer persons themselves by realizing that their own Scriptures have written about and testified to the true human and true God in one person of Christ. Moses does not accuse for the sake of tearing down, but for that of building up – yet the building up involves a moment of judgment as well within the economy of grace.²⁷ Moses and the Law ‘accuse’ because they are not focused upon convicting the people in question, for that is not Moses’ final target: in witnessing to the truth of the person of Christ (and Christ himself in turn witnesses to the truth of himself and the Father in the Spirit, as in John 18:37 where he is standing before Pilate), Moses implicates and includes Christ’s fellow Jews by pointing to Christ himself.

With this logic of symbolic accusation in mind, implicating as it does Christ’s fellow Jews in and through its act of testimony, we can see now how Zola operates within an analogous framework. Zola’s real aim is, in putting anti-Semitism on trial, to ‘hasten the explosion of truth and justice’, and, as he says at the end of ‘J’Accuse...!’, ‘I have but one goal: that light be shed, in the name of mankind which has suffered so much and has the right to happiness’.²⁸ The ‘light’ in ‘the name of mankind’ can be read as an invitation to the truth of personhood which the anti-Dreyfusards have been at pains to deny not only in the person of Dreyfus himself, but also the other French Jews, as well as Protestants, Masons, and other targets of this hateful nationalism. Zola implicates himself in his accusations, knowing he has committed libel: ‘Let them dare to summon me before a court of law! Let the inquiry be held in broad daylight!’²⁹ Of course, Zola knew that by implicating himself, the details

²⁷ Richard Bell makes a similar link between the Law and the accuser. See Richard H. Bell, *Deliver Us from Evil: Interpreting the Redemption from the Power of Satan in New Testament Theology*, WUNT 216 (Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck, 2007), 239–41. But Bell on pp. 240-1 also quotes George Caird who says, ‘Provided that the law is understood in relation to God’s purpose of grace, Paul is prepared to ascribe to it a positive value. ...But when the law is isolated and exalted into an independent system of religion, it becomes demonic. This corruption of the law is the work of sin, and in particular the sin of self-righteousness’ (George B. Caird, *Principalities and Powers: A Study in Pauline Theology* [Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1956], 41).

²⁸ Zola, “‘J’Accuse...!’,” 53.

²⁹ *Ibid.*

of the Dreyfus case would have to be reviewed again in court,³⁰ and so his own act of self-implication was to testify not only to the truth of Dreyfus's innocence, but also to the truth of the dignity of the French Jewish people.

The anti-Dreyfusards, beginning as they did with the kind of slanderous approach described above, are far afield from truthfully testifying to the dignity of the person. Indeed, it is their own accusatory logic which testifies against them in their self-removal from any implication that they too are at fault. On the contrary, by implicating himself in his 'symbolic' accusations, Zola is calling for all of France, and especially all those involved in the Affair to become more *realized* persons by testifying to the dignity of Dreyfus and, I would argue, secondarily to Dreyfus's innocence, even though this is of course just as important for Zola as for us after him. Just as Moses can testify to Christ and secondarily accuse Christ's fellow Jews for not paying heed to this testimony, we see also how Zola aims to testify to truth and justice and thus must also resort to accusations in order to build others up toward this truthful and just explosion.³¹

b. *Péguy and the Mystique of the Person*

To conclude this analysis, I turn to Charles Péguy, who was very active as a socialist Dreyfusard during the Affair, and continued to write about the crisis for the rest of his life—including after his conversion to Christianity—until his death in the First World War. Péguy helps us clarify the terms of the debate by employing the designations of '*mystique*' and '*politique*'. *Mystique* stands for

³⁰ Although the General Staff was intent upon only focusing on Zola himself, constantly appealing to *les raisons d'état* to make the case that whatever the court had previously decided was sacrosanct. At first, Zola's verdict would be overturned on 2 April 1898, but then he was retried on 18 July. Zola would be found guilty of libel and sentenced to one year in prison. However, he fled to London for eleven months to wait out his sentence. Bredin, *The Affair*, 301 and 321.

³¹ Zola's own writings seem to testify to this wider logic insofar as 'J'Accuse...!' is not the first but the sixth public writing in a series of newspaper editorials and pamphlets which from the beginning aimed to defend the humanity of the accused, both in Dreyfus and in defending the rest of the French Jews. See Emile Zola, "'A Plea for the Jews', *Le Figaro*, 16 May 1896," in *The Dreyfus Affair: "J'Accuse" and Other Writings*, ed. Alain Pagès, trans. Eleanor Levieux (New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 1998), 2–7. And see the rest of the articles and interviews leading up to 'J'Accuse...!' in *Ibid.*, 8–42.

a kind of fervent mysticism³² which gives life to all politics and lives on a kind of suspended plane as distinct from the devices of *politique*. *Mystique* is lived and embodied and, even though its origin is the eternal, *mystique* is not opposed to the temporal and is its very possibility. As Péguy says in ‘Memories of Youth’, explaining that the religious movement of the Dreyfusards embodied something ‘essentially Christian’, ‘The Justice and the Truth that we loved so much, ... to which we gave ourselves completely during the whole of our youth, were not an abstract, conceptual Justice and Truth, they were not a dead justice and a dead truth, the justice and truth found in books and libraries, a notional, intellectual justice and truth, the justice and truth of the intellectual party; they were organic, Christian, in no sense modern, they were eternal and not temporal only, they were Justice and Truth, a living Justice and Truth’.³³ It is because of this that the Péguy scholar Hans A. Schmitt gets everything backwards: ‘Péguy’s eyes are riveted on Dreyfus, who emerges in his prose as an ideal rather than as an existence’.³⁴ Schmitt fails to understand the logic of suspension in the writings of Péguy on *la mystique*. The ‘mysticism’ that Péguy writes about is ultimately a kind of *mystique* of the person, the one entity that cannot be pinned down and abstracted in any way whatsoever, for persons are each unique, unrepeatable, and uncommunicable in ways that can never be traded nor can be dealt with by way of propositional or utilitarian logics: *this*, however, is the ambit of *politique*.

Marjorie Villiers describes *politique* thus: ‘By *politique* [Péguy] meant the sacrifice of the [moral] absolutes [of *mystique*] to *les raisons d’état*, the compromises made to secure power or maintain it by an individual, a class, a party, an institution, in their own interests or even in those of the nation itself, if these were seen outside the context of the interests of humanity’.³⁵ The immediate price exacted from all such sacrifice is one of *abstraction*. Because the State is the ultimate reality in the case of the anti-Dreyfusards, those

³² Charles Péguy, “Memories of Youth,” in *Temporal and Eternal*, trans. Alexander Dru (Indianapolis, IN: Liberty Fund, 2001), 17.

³³ *Ibid.*, 39–40.

³⁴ Hans A. Schmitt, *Charles Péguy: The Decline of an Idealist* (Baton Rouge, LA: Louisiana State University Press, 1967), 94.

³⁵ Marjorie Villiers, *Charles Péguy: A Study in Integrity* (London: Collins, 1965), 48.

arguing within the logic of *politique* are able to denounce Dreyfus as a ‘Jew’, a ‘Judas’, or ‘traitor’ and therefore reduce him to these things, preferring not to acknowledge his humanity. Against the parsimonious nature of *politiques*, Péguy argued that ‘*mystiques* are far less inimical to each other than *politiques*, and in quite a different way. ...Because unlike *politiques*, they do not invariably have to divide the temporal world, temporal matters, limited temporal power, between themselves’.³⁶ There is thus a liberality at work in *mystiques*, one that allows for dialogue, and can even work within the confines of the State, as Péguy saw himself doing.³⁷ *Politique*, when taken on its own, is all too quick to sacrifice everything to abstractions and to see all as abstractions in kind; a self-enclosed *politique* abhors the concrete. Rowan Williams sees a similar logic at work in the diabolical logic of the Devil in Dostoevsky’s writings: ‘the demonic always “de-realizes” or “disincarnates,” distracts us from the body and the particular’.³⁸ *Politique* on its own would rather not have the incarnate, so its ethos at every turn is deracination and disincarnation: all enemies within the State are no longer persons at fault, but they are now merely ‘traitors’, de-rooted and alienated.

One can see this abstraction in play enacted in the use of the epithet ‘Judas’ which was leveled against Dreyfus. Beyond the literal connection to Judas Iscariot as the person who betrayed Christ, the slander functions here as an ‘anti-type’ (not to be confused with ‘antetype,’ viz., prototype, but rather understood with the connotation of a “contrasting” type)—but this only ironically so. It is an anti-type in contrast to the kinds of symbolic typology where Christ is spoken of by Paul as a ‘type’ (τύπος) of Christ.³⁹ That is, Dreyfus is not spoken of in his dignity as a person, but rather is reduced in an antitypic representative in the sense of the diabolical mode of accusation discussed above. What’s more, at least as far as the Christians who engaged in this derogatory practice are concerned, they reveal their own betrayal of Christ as in this slanderous speech act, the betrayer is abstracted away from the very

³⁶ Péguy, “Memories of Youth,” 30.

³⁷ ‘We were the last generation with a Republican *mystique*. And our Dreyfus Affair will have been the last operation of the Republican *mystique*’ (Ibid., 7).

³⁸ Rowan Williams, *Dostoevsky: Language, Faith and Fiction* (London: Continuum, 2008), 82.

³⁹ Cf. Romans 5:14.

person in whom the betrayal is made both simultaneously intelligible and unintelligible. In other words, without the innocent One there could have been no betrayal, but those engaged in this economy of accusation miss both the dignity of the person as well as the One in whom such dignity is found—and hence the irony.⁴⁰

This logic also ‘de-names’ the person, as we saw above when Daudet remarked that Dreyfus, in his public humiliation, ‘no longer had...a name’.⁴¹ Maurice Blanchot remarks that within an abstract universal, all particular thoughts and wills apart from this abstraction fall under suspicion, and that what is truly frightening is that ‘being suspect is more serious than being guilty (hence the seeking of confession)’. But Blanchot also adds that ‘[t]he suspect is this fleeting presence that does not allow recognition,’⁴² for it seems that such suspicion (i.e. of the traitor) within an abstraction disincarnates by first de-naming, by refusing to recognize the person without even realizing that they de-name within a abstracting logic that also therefore de-names themselves as well.⁴³ *Politique* therefore lends itself much more readily to diabolical accusation within such presumed abstraction, and is carried out unilaterally, without seeing oneself implied within one’s own accusations.⁴⁴ For to disincarnate, to de-name, and to therefore no longer recognize one who has a name involves a prior naming and recognition itself; in other words, how does one know that one is first disregarding a person if they do not first acknowledge at some prior level that they are in fact a person? Why not suspect inanimate objects? Even the most genocidal of logics involves a prior

⁴⁰ I am indebted to John W. Wright for these points regarding Judas and Christ.

⁴¹ Daudet, “Le Châtiment.” Cited in Bredin, *The Affair*, 5–6.

⁴² Maurice Blanchot, *The Infinite Conversation*, trans. Susan Hanson (Minneapolis, MN: University of Minnesota Press, 1993), 238. Blanchot is remarking upon Hegel’s discussion of the abstract universal.

⁴³ For a fascinating metaphorical account of this logic inscribed into the very constitution of a city itself, see China Miéville, *The City & The City* (London: Pan Macmillan, 2009) where the citizens of Beszel must “unsee” the citizens and architecture of Ul Qoma (and vice versa), even though they often share the same “cross-hatched” geography.

⁴⁴ For an analogous case, see Gillian Rose on what she calls ‘Holocaust piety’ in Gillian Rose, *Mourning Becomes the Law: Philosophy and Representation* (Cambridge University Press, 1996), 41–62. We can see one 19th-century attempt to circumvent these inclinations in the work of Søren Kierkegaard who says, ‘Most people are subjective toward themselves and objective toward all others, frightfully objective sometimes--but the task is precisely to be objective toward oneself and subjective toward all others’ (*Journals and Papers* IV 4542 [Pap. VIII A 165] n.d., 1847).

acknowledgement of personhood, and thus a prior testimony to truth's personhood.

Where *politique* inscribes itself within monological logics, *mystique*, on the other hand, lends itself always to the dialogical. The dialogical is animated by living forces and persons, whereas the monological, as we have just seen, is the (faceless) face of de-realization and disincarnation and thus, death. Something akin to this is found in Péguy's comments on the Dreyfus Affair when he remarks, 'It lived by its *mystique*. It died of its *politique*'.⁴⁵ *Mystiques* will always give rise to *politiques*, as they always need mechanisms to keep certain parts of its life going—an accountant or managers to keep track of and pay the bills, for example. But Péguy was passionate that these things maintain a certain ordering, or else the *mystique* will die from a kind of managerialism or utilitarianism: 'Everything begins as a *mystique* and ends as a *politique*....The important point is not that such and such a *politique* should triumph over another such and such, and that one should succeed. The whole point (what matters), the essential thing, is that *in each order, in each system, THE MYSTIQUE SHOULD NOT BE DEVoured BY THE POLITIQUE TO WHICH IT GAVE BIRTH*'.⁴⁶ Péguy saw this devolution and devouring again and again throughout the Dreyfus Affair, and especially embodied in *Action Française* and the efforts of his one-time friend Jean Jaurès.⁴⁷ Actual evolution, movement, repetition, and dialogue are enabled within a *mystique*. Therefore, because its logic is one of openness, suspension, and action, it is by its nature a *personal mystique*. Or again, following the logic we are setting forth, because a *mystique* is personal, it has a nature at all.

⁴⁵ Péguy, "Memories of Youth," 33.

⁴⁶ *Ibid.*, 17, emphasis Péguy's. For a recent example of this phenomenon, see John Caiazza, "The Evolution Versus Religion Controversy: How Two Mystiques Devolved Into Politics," *Modern Age* 47 (2005): 104–12.

⁴⁷ On *Action Française*, see Peter J. Bernardi SJ, *Maurice Blondel, Social Catholicism, & Action Française: The Clash over the Church's Role in Society During the Modernist Era* (Washington, D. C.: Catholic University of America Press, 2009), 89–118 and 208–11. On Jaurès, see Charles Péguy, *Temporal and Eternal*, trans. Alexander Dru (Indianapolis, IN: Liberty Fund, 2001). For the portrait of Jaurès in Charles Péguy, *Men and Saints: Prose and Poetry*, trans. Anne Green and Julian Green (New York: Pantheon Books, 1944), 142–59. Péguy, amidst words of affection for his old friend, also makes this harsh observation: 'A man who is so gifted for the explanation of everything is ripe for all surrenders. A surrender is essentially an operation by which one settles down to explain instead of to act. And cowards are people crammed with explanations' (*Ibid.*, 149).

It is for these reasons that Schmitt's critique about Péguy's idealism falls far short of the mark. Péguy's description of *mystique* is the utmost concretization of the logic of the person, of the ineffable mystery of personhood and therefore why all of Dreyfus's detractors stand accused by their own words. The personal *mystique* of the Dreyfus Affair convicts because it discerns, keeping truth at the level of the personal and not at the abstracting, disincarnating level of *politique*.

It may be objected that pointing to the person in making a truth claim such as this is an attempt at positivism: we know what the person is, and this is the end of the story, one might say. If this were the case, then the person would fall prey to all sorts of positivistic criteria which actually evacuates and ultimately abolishes the person, for this is not how we approach persons in the every day, nor how the theological tradition to which I will look addresses personhood.⁴⁸ Indeed, the only way many have pinpointed the person is to 'nail' the person down to the point of not being a person at all.⁴⁹ That is, there

⁴⁸ See Timothy Chappell, "On the Very Idea of Criteria for Personhood," *The Southern Journal of Philosophy* 49, no. 1 (March 2011): 1–27. Chappell asks, 'When we come across any being we have never met before, are we supposed to *first* see whether it satisfies our criterion for personhood, and *then*, if it does, start treating it as a person?' (p. 5) And Chappell rightly shows how the criterialist approaches of, e.g., Singer, et al., actually treat people very *inhumanly*. By beginning with Donald Davidson's 'principle of charity' (p. 10), Chappell convincingly allows for persons to withdraw from the need to fulfill a 'complete' set of criteria: '*all* persons are incomplete and impure in their agency. No one ever does *everything* she could do with her own nature (partly, of course, because there are just too many things she could do). In one way or another, all of us are less than fully free to pursue happiness; everyone is wounded or damaged or limited or compulsive, or just plain ill, in some respect' (p. 22). However, the goal of this thesis is not merely to point to group membership as constitutive of personhood—although this is a good beginning—but that in pointing to a very particular confession of the person of Christ, the human person is only starting to see the truth of her or his participation in this person who is truth itself. Robert Spaemann is clear: 'Belonging to the human family cannot depend on empirically demonstrated properties. Either the human family is a community of persons from the word go, or else the very concept of a person as "someone" in his or her own right is unknown or forgotten'. Spaemann, *Persons*, 240.

⁴⁹ To take one famous recent example, Thomas Metzinger, *Being No One: The Self-Model Theory of Subjectivity* (Cambridge, Mass: MIT Press, 2003), 1., says, 'no such things as selves exist in the world: Nobody ever *was* or *had* a self. All that ever existed were conscious self-models that could not be recognized *as* models. The phenomenal self is not a thing, but a process—and the subjective experience of *being someone* emerges if a conscious information-processing system operates under a transparent self-model'. For a condensed version of Metzinger's argument, see Thomas Metzinger, "The No-Self Alternative," in *The Oxford Handbook of the Self*, ed. Shaun Gallagher (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2011), 279–96. While I will not disagree that a process is involved in being a person, process is not *all* that persons are. See Norris Clarke's critique of being solely constituted by relationality in W. Norris Clarke, "Person, Being, and St. Thomas," *Communio* 19, no. 4 (1992): 601–18; W.

is a desire of certainty and possession which ironically disposes of the subject matter. Accordingly, Hannah Arendt remarks that ‘the most radical and the only secure form of possession is destruction, for only what we have destroyed is safely and forever ours’.⁵⁰ The aim of this study, on the contrary, is to mark out an alternative path: we do not know what the person *is* at all, but the Christian tradition has continually borne witness to the mystery of the person as bearing truth—if not the truth itself personified in Christ—such that perhaps we can now finally begin to speak of truth at all.

As an example of a prefiguring of the Christian, the case of Socrates is instructive. We have his self-conscious ignorance (‘I know that I do not know’⁵¹) in contrast with his Sophist interlocutors, but Socrates’s self-avowed ignorance is not the end of philosophy, but the possibility of its beginning. The irony is that it is the Sophists, all too-eager to provide ready-made and pure answers (at a fee, no less⁵²) who foreclose on inquiry. Because the Sophists already possess the answers, there is nothing left to investigate. Socrates, on the other hand, owed his own skills and gifts to others, so he admitted that he

Norris Clarke, *Person and Being*, The Aquinas Lecture 1993 (Milwaukee, WI: Marquette University Press, 1993).

⁵⁰ Arendt, *The Origins of Totalitarianism*, 145.

⁵¹ See *Apology* 21d.

⁵² On this see the excellent D. C. Schindler, “Why Socrates Didn’t Charge: Plato and the Metaphysics of Money,” *Communio* 36, no. 3 (Fall 2009): 394–426. On the ‘purity’ of one’s answers, witness the analogous case of J. G. Hamann criticizing Immanuel Kant: ‘The other [Kant] would like to play the role of universal philosopher and competent Warden of the Mint just as Newton did. No part of analytical chemistry is more certain than that which has been invented for gold and silver. Hence, the confusion in regard to coinage in Germany cannot be as great as that which has crept into the textbooks which are current among us. We do not have proper conversion tables to determine what alloy content an idea may have it is to pass for truth, and so forth’ (James C. O’Flaherty, *Hamann’s Socratic Memorabilia: A Translation and Commentary* (Baltimore, MD: John Hopkins University Press, 1967), 141). Dickson provides the following helpful gloss on this passage: ‘One of Newton’s tasks as Warden of the Mint was to test the alloy content of the coins. This aspect of “criticism” or “critique” however, is the one which is the most discriminating and developed; what we lack is a critique of ideas that has advanced to a comparable level. It is then a Warden of *this* “Mint” that Kant presumably seeks to be: one who can tell us whether an idea is pure and unalloyed, and weighty enough to be considered a truth. This observation is a striking one, coming as it does twenty-two years before the publication of the *Critique of Pure Reason*’ (Gwen Griffith Dickson, *Johann Georg Hamann’s Relational Metaschematism*, Theologische Bibliothek Töpelmann 67 [Berlin and New York: Walter de Gruyter, 1995], 36). The idea here is thus that in becoming the Warden of the Mint himself in regard to truth, Kant *himself* has determined what is pure and impure, yet, as he would later do in his first *Critique* and beyond, Kant’s purification process tends to evacuate language and the person completely. On this see Johann Georg Hamann, *Writings on Philosophy and Language*, trans. and ed. Kenneth Haynes, Cambridge Texts in the History of Philosophy (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2007), 210–11. See also Cunningham, *Genealogy of Nihilism*, 74–99, esp. 90–94.

proceeded on a philosophical mission in service to the god,⁵³ that he learned his dialectic from Diotima, and so because the truth was not capital to be traded, did not charge to teach or philosophize. Socrates saw himself not as dispensing answers, but being in service to one whose answers possessed him in a sense.⁵⁴

For our purposes, it is the person of Christ who will ultimately guide our study. It is here also that we can only point, gesture, or in the tradition of Nicholas of Cusa, make conjectures. Because the ‘nature’ of the truth of Christ’s person is one we can never possess or grasp, as we will continually articulate throughout this study, it is in fact Christ’s *person who possesses us*.⁵⁵ Our personhood only is as it participates in the one person (in two natures, fully human, fully divine) of Christ. To speak of the one who speaks us, and to attempt a theology of the truth of the person of Christ in whom the truth, goodness, and beauty of all human personhood is revealed is never to articulate the logic of finality. The human person, in being confronted with the revelation of the person of Christ, is now tasked with learning how to begin. In other words, the person is not the end of inquiry, but the very *mystique* of its beginning.

⁵³ *Apology* 21a-22a, 23b.

⁵⁴ Cf. The daimon in the *Phaedrus* 242b-d.

⁵⁵ Similarly, Pope Benedict XVI has recently remarked that ‘we never have the truth; at best it has us’. Pope Benedict XVI, *Light of the World: The Pope, the Church, and the Signs of the Times: A Conversation with Peter Seewald*, trans. Michael J. Miller and Adrian J. Walker (San Francisco, CA: Ignatius Press, 2010), 50.

CHAPTER 3

STANDING ACCUSED: GRAMMAR AND ONTOLOGY

'Without ever having done anything, I have always been under accusation: I am persecuted.'

- Emmanuel Levinas¹

'May my accusers be clothed with dishonour; may they be wrapped in their own shame as in a mantle.'

- Psalm 109: 29-31

'Come to terms quickly with your accuser while you are on the way to court with him, or your accuser may hand you over to the judge, and the judge to the guard, and you will be thrown into prison. Truly I tell you, you will never get out until you have paid the last penny.'

- Matthew 5:23-26

'For really, contrary to what unbelief unceasingly maintains with empty and prideful obstinacy, the name is not sound and smoke, but word and fire.'

- Franz Rozenzweig²

In the first two chapters I have approached the concept of the 'accused' from different theological and historical perspectives: Christ standing accused before Pilate and his fellow Jews; the accusations leveled against Alfred Dreyfus by the anti-Semitic military, public, and press of late 19th-century Paris; the logic of Emile Zola's 'J'Accuse...!'; and what I called the 'symbolic' accusations of Moses that stand within a prior account of testifying to the person of Christ. One final, but substantial note on the 'accused' is in order. What I have thus far been exploring with regard to the logic of accusation concerns a certain juridical concept of accusation, but also that of slander. Such slander betrays a truly diabolical logic that desires destruction before all else, including the denial of entry into any economy of law—that is, if such slander had its way. This chapter expands upon the examination of the

¹ Emmanuel Levinas, "Substitution," in *Basic Philosophical Writings*, ed. Adriaan T. Peperzak, Simon Critchley, and Robert Bernasconi (Bloomington and Indianapolis, IN: Indiana University Press, 1996), 89.

² Franz Rosenzweig, *The Star of Redemption*, trans. Barbara E. Galli (Madison, WI: University of Wisconsin Press, 2005), 202.

slandorous denial, but this time with reference to the accusatory denial of being itself.

Now, I want to address a slightly different kind of accusation that, on the one hand, is related to the accusation of accusing another person, but on the other hand, also relates to the grammars and ontologies that structure the person in language, and the ontologies and grammars in which persons inhabit and create for themselves. Any theologically playful turning of the logic of accusation need also pay heed to the various attempts made in philosophy in the twentieth century that also consider the accusative case, all of which find themselves amidst a continual 'linguistic turn' to language.³ However, the turn to language that I will explore in the figures below should not be considered to be of a piece with the realm of late 19th- and 20th-century epistemology and logic, which attempts to carve up of all reality only in terms of what one can 'know'.⁴ Namely, for our purposes here, I will be addressing the thought of Emmanuel Levinas in his *Otherwise than Being* regarding the language of the 'accusative'.⁵ In addition, I will turn to the issues he raises regarding the concepts of Creation and of asymmetry to the other with reference to the thought of Martin Buber and Jacques Derrida. Exploring the topic of Creation will serve as a way to address the nature of created existence itself, whereas looking at Levinas will serve as an inroad into discussions of relationality, incommunicability, particularity, law, and ethics. In other words,

³ See the essay 'The Linguistic Turn as Theological Turn' in Milbank, *The Word Made Strange*, 84–120 which argues that the linguistic turn was first made in the 18th century in, e.g., the work of J. G. Hamann.

⁴ Cf. Robert B. Gibbs, *Correlations in Rosenzweig and Levinas* (Princeton, N.J: Princeton University Press, 1992), 59, where Gibbs likewise distances Rosenzweig from the "purely epistemic."

⁵ Emmanuel Levinas, *Otherwise Than Being: Or Beyond Essence*, trans. Alphonso Lingis (Pittsburgh, PA: Duquesne University Press, 1998). I will also initially be referring to the text of the earlier essay entitled 'Substitution'. Levinas himself describes this as the central chapter upon which *Otherwise than Being* is based (this article originally appeared as Emmanuel Levinas, "La Substitution," *Revue Philosophique De Louvain* 3 (August 1968): 487–508). More than mere suggestions of the kind of substitutionary and accusatory thought are already found in Emmanuel Levinas, *Totality and Infinity: An Essay on Exteriority*, trans. Alphonso Lingis, Duquesne Studies. Philosophical Series 24 (Pittsburgh: Duquesne University Press, 1969). However, Levinas radicalizes this thinking in very traumatic (literally) ways in *Otherwise than Being*. Jacques Derrida seems to get the impression of accusatory thinking when he says, commenting upon *Totality and Infinity*, 'And if we must, for once, have faith in him who stands most accused in the trial conducted by this book, the result is nothing without its becoming' (Jacques Derrida, "Violence and Metaphysics: An Essay on the Thought of Emmanuel Levinas," in *Writing and Difference*, trans. Alan Bass, 2nd ed. [London: Routledge, 1978], 84).

these topics act as routes toward issues of nature and grace, of the humanity and divinity that ultimately make up a person. Finally I will offer brief corrective accounts of the issues raised by reference to the writings of Jean-Luc Marion, Michel Henry, and Franz Rosenzweig.

a. *Levinas and the Accused in the 'Accusative' from the Very Beginning*

To begin, I will briefly mention Levinas' thematic⁶ of the 'accusative' and then provide a short grammatical primer in order to get up to speed with what Levinas is doing before turning back to a fuller treatment of his thought. Levinas is primarily focused upon the Other (*Autrui*), and the radical otherness of the Other in all its heterogeneity. In *Otherwise than Being*, Levinas works his argument around this alterity by concerning himself with an ethics opposed to ontology, or as he puts it, a 'Saying' opposed to a 'Said'.⁷ All synchrony of a structuralism is thwarted by the 'absolute diachrony'⁸ of the (non-intentional) thought of the Other. The absolute diachrony, however, unwittingly becomes the synchrony of the abyss, as I will show below. For Levinas, the alterity of the Other can never be thematized, and so Levinas attempts to proceed always *an-archically*—against an ἀρχή (*archē*) that includes both a meaning of beginning and of ruling. Moreover, Levinas'

⁶ Of course, however, Levinas endlessly reminds us that this is unthematizable. Just one example: 'Here what is essential lies in the refusal to let oneself be domesticated or subdued by a theme' (Levinas, "Substitution," 80).

⁷ 'Saying on the side of ethics, the *said* on the side of ontology'. Paul Ricoeur, "A Reading of Emmanuel Levinas's 'Otherwise Than Being or Beyond Essence'," trans. Matthew Escobar, *Yale French Studies* 104 (2004): 82.

⁸ Levinas, "Substitution," 89. 'When, against the structuralist's stressing of synchrony, Levinas emphasizes diachrony, he means that every moment of the recollectable time of my going forward toward my own death is cut through (*dia*) by the interlocution of other mortal human beings' (John Llewelyn, "Levinas and Language," in *Cambridge Companion to Levinas*, ed. Simon Critchley and Robert Bernasconi [Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2002], 136). The 'dark diachronicity' that Edith Wyschogrod speaks about clearly seems, while still having undergone trauma (which to some extent is inescapable for everybody), to intend a more healing gesture: 'the dark diachronicity of saintly life circumvents time's arrow and time's cycle even if, superficially, it appears to fall on the side of time's arrow. Saintly existence ...differs within itself, is fissured by a lapse and loss that are "structurally" rather than contingently irrecoverable by memory. Saints are also expert in "reversing" time's arrow in phenomena such as apology and repentance' (Edith Wyschogrod, *Saints and Postmodernism: Revisioning Moral Philosophy*, Religion and Postmodernism [Chicago and London: University of Chicago Press, 1990], 108).

argument culminates in a chapter entitled ‘Substitution’⁹ which, because of an ultimate responsibility, places the human person on the side of the accused. The Other obsesses over the ‘Same’ in a persecution¹⁰ which reconfigures how the self is constituted:

Obsessed with responsibilities which do not result from decisions taken by a “freely contemplating” subject, consequently accused of what it never willed or decreed, accused of what it did not do, subjectivity is thrown back on itself – in itself – by a persecuting accusation. Concretely, this means to be accused of what others do and to be responsible for what others do. It is to be pushed to the limit, responsible for the very persecution undergone. Subjectivity is subject to the limitless passivity of an accusative that is not a mere declension derived from a nominative. Everything here begins in the accusative. Such is the exceptional condition – or noncondition – of the Self (even in our Latin grammars).¹¹

The logic of accusation, the play upon the accusative case, and the theme of ‘Illeity’ dominate the rest of *Otherwise than Being*. Before exploring Levinas’ thought further on this matter, however, the terms used regarding the nominative and accusative case requires a brief grammatical excursus which will help illuminate what is at issue in Levinas’ thought, but I will explore the grammar also for the sake of my own argument in an attempt to disentangle a different kind of ‘accusative’.

Most English speakers do not need to concern themselves with becoming accustomed to case in language. Modern English as an Indo-European language is a syntactically accusative language, as are about three-quarters of the world’s languages (although many others like German, Latin, and Greek do explicitly use the other cases).¹² Aside from such pronouns as *him*, *her*, *them*, and *whom* however, Modern English no longer pays attention to case systems,¹³ using primarily word order and prepositions to indicate linguistic function, in contrast to Anglo-Saxon, which was a case language but whose

⁹ Levinas calls this chapter the ‘germ’ of the book. See Levinas, *Otherwise Than Being*, 193–4n.1.

¹⁰ Levinas, “Substitution,” 81–2.

¹¹ *Ibid.*, 88.

¹² Robert M. W. Dixon, *Ergativity*, Cambridge Studies in Linguistics 70 (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1994), chap. 1.

¹³ Barbara A. Fennell, *A History of English: A Sociolinguistic Approach*, Blackwell Textbooks in Linguistics 17 (Oxford and Malden, MA: Blackwell, 2001), 172.

case forms we no longer use.¹⁴ So, in the sentence, ‘The girl kicked the football,’ ‘girl’ is the nominative or subject of the sentence, and ‘football’ is in the accusative position as the direct object of the verb ‘kicked’. In languages such as Greek and German, the case of the words (or articles) themselves change according to their nominative or accusative attribution, but in English, as mentioned, we generally indicate meaning by word order. Thus, in languages with a richer case system such German, Greek, and Latin, the cases used are the nominative, accusative, genitive, and dative.¹⁵ Barry J. Blake describes case as stemming from the ‘Latin *cāsus*, which is in turn a translation of the Greek *ptōsis* “fall”. The term originally referred to verbs as well as nouns and the idea seems to have been of falling away from an assumed standard form, a notion also reflected in the term “declension” used with reference to inflectional classes’.¹⁶ Regarding the nominative, Blake says, ‘The nominative was referred to as the *orthē* “straight”, “upright” or *eutheia* “straight”, “direct” form and then as the *ptōsis orthē*, *ptōsis eutheia* or later *ptōsis onomastikē* “nominative case.”’¹⁷ Latin translations of oblique cases are as follows: *genikē* for the genitive; *dotikē* for the dative; and *aitiatikē* for the accusative. However, the label ‘accusative’ is a mistranslation into Latin ‘of the Greek *aitiatikē ptōsis* which refers to the patient of an action caused to happen (*aitia* “cause”)’.¹⁸ While genitive primarily functions as the case of possession, elsewhere Blake says regarding the dative that it ‘was the *ptōsis dotikē*, the “giving” case, because it encoded the recipient of the verb *didōmi* “to give”. In fact the dative had a variety of functions including a locative function, though mostly when governed by a preposition, and marking the

¹⁴ Howard Jackson and Peter Stockwell, *An Introduction to the Nature and Functions of Language* (Cheltenham: Stanley Thornes, 1996), 77.

¹⁵ Latin also has the ablative case, which does not exist in Greek but whose directionality is covered by the genitive.

¹⁶ Barry J. Blake, *Case*, 2nd ed, Cambridge Textbooks in Linguistics (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2001), 18.

¹⁷ *Ibid.*

¹⁸ *Ibid.*, 19. Blake adds that ‘Varro (116 BC-27?BC) is responsible for the term and he appears to have been influenced by the other meaning of *aitia*, namely “accusation”’ (*Ibid.*). He follows Robins and Calboli here: R. H. Robins, *A Short History of Linguistics*, Longman’s Linguistics Library (London: Longmans, 1967), 35; Gualtiero Calboli, *La Linguistica Moderna E Il Latino: I Casi*, Testi e Manuali Per L’insegnamento Universitario Del Latino 10 (Bologna: R. Pàtron, 1972), 100. This notion of accusative in its original, causal sense will be explored in depth below.

complement of various verbs indicating aid, trust, pleasing, and the like.”¹⁹ Notably, the aforementioned mistranslation of ‘accusative’ from the original Greek causally-inflected *aitiatikē* as a grammatical (let alone metaphysical) point never seems to arise in Levinas, nor in his commentators such as Derrida and Marion. Instead, the Latin mistranslation comes into play providing Levinas grist for his juridical mill of accusation. He never appears to take notice of this ancient mistake.

This grammatical background can now help us to decode what is at work in Levinas’ remarks on what he calls ‘obsession’. He says, ‘Obsession is a total passivity, more passive still than the passivity of things’.²⁰ Within the world of ‘things’, every-thing is under the reign of the logos as ‘prime matter’. It is underneath this logos that things ‘fall’, and, recalling the discussion of case (*ptōsis*) as fall above, Levinas states, ‘This fall (or case), this pure submission to the logos, without considering the proposition whereby the thing becomes a narrative to which the logos belongs, *is the essence of the accusative*’.²¹ However, because obsession is anarchic and does not therefore fall under the rule of the ἀρχή, obsession ‘accuses me on the hither side of prime matter seized by the category’.²² Thus, the accusation of obsession is ‘transformed into an absolute accusative’ and this constitutes the subject ‘in the accusative, without recourse in being, expelled from being, that is to say, *in itself*’.²³ The subject is therefore held responsible for all, and finds itself in a situation where it must substitute itself for all other persons: ‘The word “I” means to be answerable for everything and for everyone’.²⁴

When Levinas says, as quoted above, ‘Subjectivity is subject to the limitless passivity of an accusative that is not a mere declension derived from a nominative’²⁵, he plays on this ‘undeclinability’ as an ‘inability to decline’ a

¹⁹ Barry J. Blake, “History of the Research on Case,” in *The Oxford Handbook of Case*, Oxford Handbooks in Linguistics (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2009), 15.

²⁰ Levinas, “Substitution,” 87.

²¹ *Ibid.*, emphasis mine.

²² *Ibid.*

²³ *Ibid.*, 88. See also Levinas, *Otherwise Than Being*, 196n.21.

²⁴ Levinas, “Substitution,” 90. Further, ‘It is this responsibility for the creature that constitutes the “self” ’ (*Ibid.*, 94). Also: ‘To be a “self” is always to have one degree of responsibility more’ (*Ibid.*, 91).

²⁵ Levinas, “Substitution,” 88.

debt preceding a loan from the obsessive persecution of the Other.²⁶ On the one hand, grammatically Levinas is referring to the fact that personal pronouns do not ‘decline’ in most languages: whereas the Greek accusative for human declines as ἄνθρωπον from the nominative ἄνθρωπος, in nearly all languages it does not work like this for pronouns (also especially the irregular verb ‘to be’). For example: the nominative ‘I’ in contrast to the accusative ‘me’. They do not look like each other at all, being ‘irregular’, and here for Levinas, indeclinable grammatically, and undeclinable ethically. From this grammatical point of departure Levinas derives his ethics of obsession, which for him means that the obsession of the other is undeclinable, that is, inescapable. The self is always constituted by the responsibility for the Other and thus must substitute itself for the Other. There is nothing ‘behind’ this transcendental substitutability, for it is the condition of all selfhood.²⁷ For Levinas, inescapability stems from a radical passivity before all freedom: ‘Substitution is not an act; it is a passivity inconvertible into an act, the hither side of the act-passivity alternative’²⁸ where ‘the distinction between being accused and accusing oneself’ is effaced.²⁹

In sum, Levinas appears to isomorphically derive his ethics of accusation as ‘indeclinable’ from the fact that the personal pronouns in the accusative case do not ‘decline’ from an original nominative. The nominative ‘I’ exists only insofar as it is addressed—accused—as a ‘you’ or a ‘me’. While Levinas is conscious enough of the Greek *ptōsis* to work a ‘fall’ into his metaphysics, there is no conscious reference to the original Greek meaning of the case of the *aitiatikē*, that is, ‘the patient of an action caused to happen’.

²⁶ Levinas, *Otherwise Than Being*, 112, 121.

²⁷ Robert Bernasconi, “What Is the Question to Which ‘Substitution’ Is the Answer?,” in *Cambridge Companion to Levinas*, ed. Simon Critchley and Robert Bernasconi (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2002), 250.

²⁸ Levinas, *Otherwise Than Being*, 117.

²⁹ *Ibid.*, 125.

b. *The Passivity of Creation*

What's more, Levinas ties this transcendental accusatory-substitution to the passivity found in concept of creation itself. Arguing against a Western philosophy that only knows the eternality of a preexisting matter,³⁰ Levinas contrasts the idea of creation which entails an 'absolute passivity, this side of activity and passivity'.³¹ The noninstant of creation itself, in its absolute diachrony further suggests 'the total passivity of the self...[which] is a recurrence to the self, on this side of the self'.³² In fact, the accusation of subjectivity is a heightened sense of the responsibility for creation: 'The self, the subjection or subjectivity of the subject, is the very over-emphasis of a responsibility for creation'.³³ For Levinas, however, this aspect of creation should neither be seen as a mistake inherent to creation nor as a fall; on the contrary, he states, 'The self involved in the *gnawing away at oneself* in responsibility, which is also incarnation, is not an objectification of the self by the ego. The self, the persecuted one, is accused beyond his fault before freedom, and thus in an unavowable innocence. One must not conceive it to be in the state of original sin; it is, on the contrary, the original goodness of creation'.³⁴ The goodness of creation thus entails persecution, accusation, subjection, trauma, obsession, and being held hostage—indeed, no light claim to make.

In this situation of being held hostage in persecution, which Levinas insists is 'good', the accused self stands bare, stripped of its imperialistic ego, and announces (in the accusative): 'Here I am' (*me voici*). 'The subjectivity of the subject, as being subject to everything, is a pre-originary susceptibility, before

³⁰ Such a claim must, of course, insist on refusing to acknowledge the 'Western' philosophy written by Christians themselves from the very beginning of Christianity, not to mention such Jewish thinkers as Philo.

³¹ Levinas, "Substitution," 87–8. Levinas clarifies this: 'in the concept of creation *ex nihilo*, if it is not a pure nonsense, there is the concept of a passivity that does not revert into an assumption. The self as a creature is conceived in a passivity more passive still than the passivity of matter, that is, prior to the virtual coinciding of a term with itself' (Levinas, *Otherwise Than Being*, 113–14).

³² Levinas, "Substitution," 89. For a further analysis that takes Levinas' passivity to a further extreme, making the Other even more anonymous than perhaps Levinas himself intended, see Thomas Carl Wall, *Radical Passivity: Levinas, Blanchot, and Agamben* (Albany, NY: State University of New York Press, 1999), 31–64, esp. 40–46.

³³ Levinas, *Otherwise Than Being*, 125.

³⁴ *Ibid.*, 121, emphasis Levinas'.

all freedom and outside of every present. It is accused in uneasiness or the unconditionality of the accusative, in the “here I am” (*me voici*) which is obedience to the glory of the Infinite that orders me to the other’.³⁵ Levinas goes on to cite Dostoyevsky in *Brothers Karamazov*: ‘Each of us is guilty before everyone for everyone, and I more than the others’.³⁶ This is the final place that Levinas leaves the traumatized subject in *Otherwise than Being*, uttering ‘me, that is, *here I am for the others*, to lose this place radically, or his shelter in being, to enter into ubiquity which is also a utopia’.³⁷ It is precisely a *u-topia*, a no place, because, as Edith Wyschogrod says in commenting upon these passages, ‘To say *me voici* in this context is not to designate spatial coordinates but rather to place oneself at the disposal of another’.³⁸

c. *Radical Asymmetry*

Before moving onto my attempt to make sense of Levinas on the accused and the accusative, I turn to Levinas’ account of the radical asymmetry of the person. From the very beginning, because Levinas’ ‘ethics’ come from the Platonic ‘Good beyond being’ in a way that strictly opposes any ethics to be found within being whatsoever, at the very heart of his project beats a radical heterogeneity always lurching against, disturbing, and unsettling the ‘Same’. Levinas began his asymmetrical ethics-before-ontology in *Totality and Infinity* first as a critique of the Husserlian *ego* which he saw as a Hegelian totalizing of the Same of every other *ego* as an ‘alter ego’ within its own analogy of apperception.³⁹ This is because, as Levinas asks, ‘how can the same, produced

³⁵ *Ibid.*, 146.

³⁶ *Ibid.* The Dostoyevsky reference is to *Brothers Karamazov*, Book VI, IIa. Levinas in a footnote cites Isaiah 6:8: “Here I am! Send me.” Isaiah, 6:8. “Here I am!” means “send me” (*Ibid.*, 199n.11).

³⁷ Levinas, *Otherwise Than Being*, 185.

³⁸ Edith Wyschogrod, “Language and Alterity in the Thought of Levinas,” in *Cambridge Companion to Levinas*, ed. Simon Critchley and Robert Bernasconi (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2002), 201.

³⁹ Levinas, *Totality and Infinity*, 67. He is commenting upon the Fifth Cartesian Meditation of Husserl found in Edmund Husserl, *Cartesian Meditations: An Introduction to Phenomenology*, trans. Dorion Cairns (Dordrecht, Boston, London: Kluwer Academic Publishers, 1999), 108–120 [§50–§54]. For a recent treatment of the Fifth Cartesian Meditation, see “Reflections on Husserl’s Fifth Cartesian Meditation” in Michel Henry,

as egoism, enter into relationship with an other without immediately divesting it of its alterity?’⁴⁰ Indeed, Western philosophy for Levinas is entirely constituted of introducing a neutral *tertium quid* into the relationship between the ‘other’ and the ‘same’ for the sake of comprehension.⁴¹ Thus for Levinas, ‘Philosophy is an egology’.⁴² Against such an egology which subsumes and sublates (*Aufheben*) all otherness into itself, Levinas argues for an asymmetry on two accounts: the first being the plain experience of intersubjectivity (i.e. ‘the radical impossibility of seeing oneself from the outside and of speaking in the same sense of oneself and of the others’⁴³), and the second being the theme of alterity itself in the I’s relation to the Other, which is always a ‘more’ or a ‘less’ in response to the orphan and the widow. With regard to seeing the I as ‘more’ than the Other (this is given less emphasis, and hence the asymmetry), this stems from the resources found within oneself to be true to his or her responsibility to the other; and with respect to seeing the I a ‘less’ than the Other, this is rooted in the obligation and judgment placed upon the I by the face of the Other, which emphasizes the transcendent ‘height’ of the Other’s alterity. Because the height of the Other is a transcendence and not an oppositional immanence, the Other for Levinas can appear as a stranger and not an enemy.⁴⁴

In *Otherwise than Being*, Levinas, as with all his (‘non-’)thematics, pushes the heteronomy further. Levinas qualifies and goes beyond Heidegger’s being-toward-death and displaces the ‘in each case mine’ (*Jemeinigkeit*) of *Dasein* with an originary substitutability: ‘In proximity the other obsesses me according to the absolute asymmetry of signification, of the-one-for-the-other: I substitute myself for him, whereas no one can replace me, and the substitution of the one for the other does not signify the substitution of the other for the one. The relationship with the third party is an incessant

Material Phenomenology, trans. Scott Davidson, *Perspectives in Continental Philosophy* (New York: Fordham University Press, 2008), 101–117.

⁴⁰ Levinas, *Totality and Infinity*, 38.

⁴¹ *Ibid.*, 43.

⁴² *Ibid.*, 44.

⁴³ *Ibid.*, 53.

⁴⁴ See the section entitled ‘The Asymmetry of the Interpersonal’ in *Ibid.*, 215–16.

correction of the asymmetry of proximity in which the face is looked at'.⁴⁵ Indeed, as Paul Davies says, 'The relation of asymmetry in which I find myself always already opened to the Other is written, in *Otherwise than Being*, in such a way that it can never be undone or reappropriated by a higher or more fundamental intersubjectivity'.⁴⁶ Asymmetry is never secondary to an original symmetry; on the contrary any possible symmetry between persons (if there is any at all) is only made possible by this fundamental, anarchic, asymmetry of the accusation: the commonplace moral reciprocal relations are founded in a metaphysical asymmetry⁴⁷ because 'no matter which reciprocal relations I can discern between others and me, it is to *me* that these relations are presented as such'.⁴⁸ To help illustrate this asymmetry in the form of an imperative, Jean-François Lyotard thus remarks that the whole discourse of Levinas can be expressed in the following meta-prescriptive command:

'That / Thou / shalt never be / I !'

d. *Relating Asymmetrically or Symmetrically?*

'All the classical concepts interrogated by Levinas are thus dragged toward the agora, summoned to justify themselves in an ethico-political language that they have not always sought—or believed that they sought—to speak, summoned to transpose themselves into this language by confessing their violent aims'.

-Jacques Derrida⁴⁹

In this section, regarding the issue of a radical asymmetry, I will address the issues Levinas raises with reference to the work of Jacques Derrida and

⁴⁵ Levinas, *Otherwise Than Being*, 158. This is essentially the same kind of Levinasian move that Simon Critchley makes against Heidegger in Simon Critchley, 'Originary Inauthenticity: On Heidegger's *Sein und Zeit*', in *Transcendence and Phenomenology*, ed. Peter M Candler, Jr. and Conor Cunningham (London: SCM Press, 2007), 21–49.

⁴⁶ Paul Davies, "A Fine Risk: Reading Blanchot Reading Levinas," in *Re-Reading Levinas*, ed. Robert Bernasconi and Simon Critchley (Bloomington and Indianapolis, IN: Indiana University Press, 1991), 215.

⁴⁷ Levinas, *Totality and Infinity*, 53.

⁴⁸ Søren Overgaard, "In Defense of Subjectivity: Husserl, Levinas, and the Problem of Solipsism," in *Subjectivity and Transcendence*, ed. Arne Grøn, Iben Damgaard, and Søren Overgaard, *Religion in Philosophy and Theology* 25 (Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck, 2007), 95–114, here at 105.

⁴⁹ Derrida, "Violence and Metaphysics," 97.

Martin Buber. As the issue here concerns the modality of relationality around the theme of personality incommunicability, Thomas Aquinas will be brought in briefly as well to shed a light on the mode of this communication. If, as Derrida states in the epigraph above, Levinas drags classical concepts to the *agora*⁵⁰ in order to confess their violence, I propose here to summon classical concepts—as well as Levinas’ own ethics—to see the face of the ‘other’ in the wider traditions of the gathering of the *ekklēsia* (both inside and outside, before and after).⁵¹ This assembling of ‘wherever two or three are gathered’ compels not just an upholding of the economy of relationality, but it also draws upon the reality of the mystery of personal encounter such that where we speak of the name of the other, we do not capture them in a concept, but point one another toward the more original gift of their very being, ultimately to the ‘name above all names’.⁵² What I will show below is that, in approaching personhood’s truth, there is an intuitive, surface ‘sense’ in which Levinas is correct regarding the passivity of creation and the ‘accusative’ status of persons; however, to the extent that he inherits these concepts from others in the tradition of thought he speaks truly, but to the extent that he abandons the truths of the tradition and inscribes the Other within an *utterly* heterogeneous, an-archic, and traumatic alterity as the ‘goodness’ of Creation and persons themselves, he completely loses and therefore *abandons* the person altogether within a radical equivocity.

Levinas’ ethical hyper-asymmetry poses two problems (at least). The first are its own logical and ethical implications, and the second regards the loss of the person itself. To the first, the logical and ethical implications of Levinas’ radical anarchic heteronomy are as follows: because the other always places an accusatory claim and obligation upon any self (the ‘Same’), in order to understand this (i.e. ‘obey’), one must never interpret Levinas in the same way

⁵⁰ Is there not a further exchange of capital implied in Derrida’s mention of the *agora*? For this was not a place of confession but a place of speaking publically in the political sphere and also an open area for the marketplace. On related themes critiquing Derrida’s understanding of capital and writing, see Catherine Pickstock, *After Writing: On the Liturgical Cosummation of Philosophy*, Challenges in Contemporary Theology (Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell, 1998), 7–33.

⁵¹ That is, I will be appealing to philosophers and theologians, Atheist, Christian and Jewish, the latter of whom represent both a ‘before’ the Church temporally as well as an eschatological ‘after’ indicated by the language of ‘grafting’ found in Romans 11:23-24.

⁵² Matthew 18:20; Philippians 2:9, respectively.

that he intends. Indeed, throughout *Otherwise than Being*, he constantly expresses his worry that he is still using the language of the 'Said' to give expression to the 'Saying', as he perceives that he is always under the threat using 'ontology' to talk about 'ethics' (this, of course, being a bad thing for Levinas). So, if Levinas is philosophy's Super-Ego of alterity, should we not become obedient by continuing to interpret him *otherwise*? Lyotard wonders the same thing: 'The more, as aliens to Levinas, we speak of Levinas, the more we conform to his precept—and also, the more Levinas will be bound to welcome the commentary'.⁵³ Lyotard goes on to look at what an alterity-as-first-principle entails, and comes to the conclusion that this rule 'necessarily authorizes retortion, enabling the same to be drawn from the other and the other from the same. If this amounts to persecution, it is the fault of the persecuted alone; he suffers only from his own law and refutes himself'.⁵⁴ Or, put another way, Levinas invites a kind of belligerent misunderstanding of his own text in order to fully command a respect for the other's desire not to be reduced to the same.⁵⁵ In his book *The Differend*, Lyotard phrases it this way: 'The irony of the commentator easily goes as far as persecution: the less I understand you, he says to the Levinassian (or divine) text, the more I will obey you by that fact; for, if I want to understand you (in your turn) as a request, then I should not understand you as sense'.⁵⁶ The misunderstanding cannot even be seen as a mere implication here, for Levinas is always arguing within the contours of a command, being indebted to a Kantian imperative, and thus Lyotard argues that we 'should' misunderstand him.⁵⁷

⁵³ Jean-François Lyotard, "Levinas' Logic," in *The Lyotard Reader*, ed. Andrew E. Benjamin (Oxford: Basil Blackwell, 1989), 275.

⁵⁴ *Ibid.*, 276.

⁵⁵ James Williams, *Lyotard: Towards a Postmodern Philosophy* (Cambridge: Polity Press, 1998), 125.

⁵⁶ *Ibid.*, citing Jean-François Lyotard, *The Differend: Phrases in Dispute*, trans. George Van Den Abeele (Manchester: Manchester University Press, 1988), 115. John Milbank also notes this in his *Theology and Social Theory: Beyond Secular Reason* (Oxford and Cambridge, MA: Blackwell, 1993), 318.

⁵⁷ Aside from all the language of 'imperative' which shares a fairly explicit connection to the Kantian *Sollen*, Levinas says as much at the end of his chapter on substitution: 'we would think here of Kantism, which finds a meaning to the human without measuring it by ontology and outside of the question "What is there here...?" that one would like to take to be preliminary, outside of the immortality and death which ontologies run up against. The fact that immortality and theology could not determine the categorical imperative signifies the novelty of the Copernican revolution: a sense that is not measured by being or not being; but being on the contrary is determined on the basis of sense' (Levinas, *Otherwise Than Being*,

Consequently, such an originary heteronomy will inhabit a perpetual equivocity, forming a subject, a person that is always divided and torn by a traumatic and heteronomous command. Commenting on this aspect, Simon Critchley benignly remarks, ‘the subject is also *divided* by this demand, it is constitutively *split* between itself and a demand that it cannot meet, but which is that by virtue of which it becomes a subject. The ethical subject is a split subject.’⁵⁸ In an earlier essay, Critchley goes further to say that the Levinasian ‘ethical subject is a traumatic neurotic’.⁵⁹ William Desmond deduces that such an equivocity stems ‘generally [from] a tendency to *dualistic* thinking in Levinas, for example, ontology versus metaphysics, being versus the good’.⁶⁰ Desmond goes on to describe how this dualism and inherent equivocity works

129). Levinas is more explicit when he says: ‘it is towards a relationship of this kind [with the other placed right at the beginning] that Kant hastens, when he formulates the second version of the categorical imperative by a deduction - which may be valid or not - from the universality of the maxim. This obedience, which finds its concrete realization in the relationship with the Other, points to a reason which is less nuclear than the reason of the Greeks, which is seen from the outset as the correlative of stability, the law of the Same (*Même*)’. Emmanuel Levinas, “Revelation in the Jewish Tradition,” in *The Levinas Reader*, ed. Seán Hand, trans. Sarah Richmond (Oxford: Basil Blackwell, 1989), 206.

⁵⁸ Simon Critchley, *Infinitely Demanding: Ethics of Commitment, Politics of Resistance* (London and New York: Verso, 2007), 62–3 emphasis in original. Critchley goes on to connect this aspect to the thought of Jacques Lacan. This Levinasian ‘split subject’ is radically different from the ‘split’ spoken about in Philipp Rosemann’s work, indebted as it is to Thomas Aquinas: ‘*Being a creature means, above all, being split*’. This is because, he continues, ‘The first and fundamental split is the one between *esse* and *ens*. Although creation originates in this split, the entire dynamics of creaturely existence is, paradoxically, directed toward the goal of overcoming it. Thus, essences exteriorize themselves as causes, and human beings act, ultimately out of a profound tendency towards self-unification, which, were it realized, would be tantamount to self-annihilation. If ever the circle were to be closed, the “clearing” of being would vanish’. Philipp W. Rosemann, *Omne Agens Agit Sibi Simile: A “Repetition” of Scholastic Metaphysics* (Leuven: Leuven University Press, 1996), 338, emphasis Rosemann’s. Cf. Rudi A. Te Velde, *Participation and Substantiality in Thomas Aquinas*, Studien und Texte zur Geistesgeschichte des Mittelalters 46 (Leiden: Brill, 1995), 278–9. Because we are creaturely, we can never close this circle ourselves, but as creatures we participate in that eminent reality which is the closed circle—without reserve—of the triune processions of Father, Son, Holy Spirit (Ibid., 344–52). In sum, for Rosemann, this split is merely a description of our status as *creatures*, which presumes a higher unity in the one Triune God who is uncreated. For Critchley, following Levinas, there is no unity, for the self as self is originally a traumatic sundering.

⁵⁹ Simon Critchley, “The Split Subject,” in *Emmanuel Lévinas: Philosophy, Theology, Politics*, ed. Adam Lipszyc (Warsaw: Adam Mickiewicz Institute, 2006), 67.

⁶⁰ William Desmond, “Philosophies of Religion: Marcel, Jaspers, Levinas,” in *Emmanuel Levinas: Critical Assessments of Leading Philosophers*, ed. Claire Katz and Lara Trout, vol. 3: *Levinas and the Question of Religion* (London and New York: Routledge, 2005), 115 emphasis in original. David Bentley Hart remarks that Levinas is accurately described as ‘Manichean, Orphic, or gnostic’. David Bentley Hart, *The Beauty Of The Infinite: The Aesthetics Of Christian Truth* (Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 2004), 75. Hart is backed up (see Ibid., 75n.56) by Gillian Rose who describes Levinas’ vision as ‘Buddhist Judaism’ in Rose, *Mourning Becomes the Law*, 37. She also calls this stance ‘Judaic Manichaeism’ in Gillian Rose, “Shadow of Spirit,” in *Judaism and Modernity: Philosophical Essays* (Oxford: Blackwell, 1993), 43.

against his own best intentions regarding the irreplaceability the self. For, if the self is irreplaceable, Desmond asks, ‘how can the irreplaceable be substituted? There cannot be a replacement for the non-substitutable, nor a substitute for the irreplaceable. The concept of hostage carried the idea of *equivalence*: one for the other, a tooth for a tooth. But the concept of equivalence is impossible without the idea of identity, and Levinas’s whole discourse of the irreplaceable claims to be prior to the idea of identity and its cognate concepts like equivalence’.⁶¹ Desmond does not intend some kind of static identity here, but on the contrary, he is gesturing toward an analogous logic which founds the difference between one or more in an originary way towards a prior similarity of a ‘towards one’ (πρὸς ἓν)—otherwise substitution would be impossible against a ruptured ‘irreplaceable’ self. This brings me to the recognition of a prior mutuality and reciprocity found in the constitution of persons, most poignantly expressed in the work of Martin Buber.

For Buber, his seminal *I and Thou* is based upon a priority of relation that—even though it did not attempt to denigrate the particularity and singularity of individual persons in any way—is a relation that is always symmetrical. ‘Relation is mutual. My *Thou* affects me, as I affect it. We are molded by our pupils and built up by our works. ... We live our lives inscrutably included within the streaming mutual life of the universe’.⁶² Relation’s symmetry is made possible not by a primal heteronomy, but by the very fact that it is *relation* which founds everyone and everything. In a sentence that Levinas himself seemed to overlook, Buber says, ‘In the beginning is relation—as category of being, readiness, grasping form, mould for the soul; it is the *a priori* of relation, the *inborn Thou*’.⁶³ If there was not

⁶¹ Desmond, “Philosophies of Religion: Marcel, Jaspers, Levinas,” 115 emphasis in original. Desmond continues: ‘This is a logical problem with substitution, but it points to a tension that is not merely logical. If we privilege the irreplaceable, there must be a limit to human substitution; by contrast, if we privilege substitution, we compromise the absolute singularity of the irreplaceable. How then can we affirm substitution and the irreplaceable both together? Put this way: Job’s second set of children seemed to be replacements for the first dead children, they seem to be substitutes. But the whole thrust of Levinas’s thought must be that there can be no replacement for the first irreplaceable children; there are no human substitutes’ (ibid).

⁶² Martin Buber, *I and Thou*, trans. Ronald Gregor Smith, 2nd ed. (London: Continuum, 2004), 20.

⁶³ Ibid., 28, emphasis in original. For Levinas’ main critique of Buber outside of the scattered references found in *Totality and Infinity*, see Emmanuel Levinas, “Martin Buber and the Theory of Knowledge,” in *The Philosophy of Martin Buber*, ed. Paul Schilpp and Marucie

this equivalent basis for relation, how could Levinas say that we are even able to substitute for one another if, as Desmond reminds us, Levinas points to the irreplaceability of the self? Even if we grant some sort of degree of absence of the other or even an inability to say ‘Thou’ for any number of reasons (what Levinas and Derrida call the ‘trace’), is it not the case that because the other, while unique and incommunicable, is also ‘just like me’ and someone to whom I may give myself?⁶⁴ Instead, Levinas is bent on making assertions such as the following: ‘It is thus the B/being in me, the fact that I exist, my existing, that constitutes the absolutely intransitive element, something without intentionality or *relations*’.⁶⁵ ‘Utterly to the contrary’, objects Lorenz Puntel, who rightly argues that ‘the most radical and fundamental “element” that I share with others is precisely my Being/existence’.⁶⁶ No matter how different each member of the community may be from one another, ‘the simplest fact is that every member in the community nevertheless shares at least one thing, namely his own existence/Being, with other human beings’.⁶⁷ When Buber

Friedman, *Library of Living Philosophers* 12 (La Salle, IL: Open Court, 1967), 133–50; reprinted in Emmanuel Levinas, “Martin Buber and the Theory of Knowledge,” in *The Levinas Reader*, trans. and ed. Seán Hand (Oxford: Basil Blackwell, 1989), 59–74. For Buber’s response see Martin Buber, “Replies to My Critics,” in *The Philosophy of Martin Buber*, ed. Paul Schilpp and Marucie Friedman, *Library of Living Philosophers* 12 (La Salle, IL: Open Court, 1967), 689–744. On this topic and Levinas’ relationship with Buber’s thought, including Buber’s own responses to Levinas, see the following helpful article: Robert Bernasconi, “‘Failure of Communication’ as a Surplus: Dialogue and Lack of Dialogue Between Buber and Levinas,” in *The Provocation of Levinas: Rethinking the Other*, ed. Robert Bernasconi (London and New York: Routledge, 1988), 100–135. The crux of the matter regarding Levinas’ rejection of the symmetry found in Buber’s thought comes down to Levinas assimilating Buber into trends in recent thought, ‘specifically Husserl and Heidegger, where the substantiality and independent reality of the self is denied’. Bernasconi continues, ‘Had Levinas read Buber’s 1957 Postscript to *I and Thou*—or indeed had he been more attentive to the third part of *I and Thou* instead of focusing largely, like most readers, on the first part—he might not have gone on to ask whether Buber had been aware of “the logical originality of relation”. Appealing to the notion of an absolute Person, Buber had in the Postscript explicitly embraced the contradictory nature of the relation as arising out of the supra-contradictory nature of God. This contradiction is met by the paradoxical designation of God as the absolute Person, that is one that cannot be relativized’ (ibid., 111).

⁶⁴ Cf.: ‘All suffering is unique—and all suffering is common. I have to be reminded of the latter truth when I am suffering myself—and of the former when I see others suffering’ (Henri de Lubac, *Paradoxes of Faith* [San Francisco, CA: Ignatius Press, 1987], 171).

⁶⁵ Emmanuel Levinas, *Time and the Other*, trans. Richard A. Cohen (Pittsburgh, PA: Duquesne University Press, 1987), 42, emphasis mine. Cf.: ‘Solitude thus appears as the isolation which makes the very event of B/being’ (Emmanuel Levinas, *Ethics and Infinity*, trans. Richard A. Cohen [Pittsburgh, PA: Duquesne University Press, 1985], 57–8).

⁶⁶ Lorenz B. Puntel, *Being and God: A Systematic Approach in Confrontation with Martin Heidegger, Emmanuel Levinas, and Jean-Luc Marion*, trans. Alan White (Evanston, IL: Northwestern University Press, 2011), 293.

⁶⁷ Ibid.

therefore says, ‘Between you and it there is mutual giving: you say *Thou* to it and give yourself to it, it says *Thou* to you and gives itself to you,’⁶⁸ Buber is making an implicit connection between the nature of creation—‘in the beginning was relation’ which engenders ‘the mutual life of the universe’—and the very nature of the human persons themselves who have a share in this Being to which we have a relation. In other words, it is not accidental that we bear an intrinsic relation to one another within ‘the heavens and the earth’ whose essence it is to relate; on the contrary, our inner relation to one to another within creation is the very nature of things.

Derrida’s essay ‘Violence and Metaphysics’—his first response to Levinas’ work in general and to *Totality and Infinity* in particular—provides an occasion to critique Levinas’ asymmetricality in relation to Husserl in light of what we have said regarding Buber.⁶⁹ Derrida mainly restricts his criticisms to Levinas’ interpretation of Husserl, but he does offer some brief comments regarding Levinas’ conceptual relationship to Buber—namely, that Levinas opposes ‘the magisterial height of the *You* to the intimate reciprocity of the Me-Thou’ and then goes on to show how Levinas offers up a philosophy of the ‘*He (II)*’ which, while it would seem at first glance to be impersonal, Derrida sees this as the transcendence of the personal Other which absconds in absence.⁷⁰ While the description of this Other as personal is wholly debatable,⁷¹ for now I will confine my line of exposition to what is at hand in Derrida’s defense of Husserl.

⁶⁸ Buber, *I and Thou*, 31.

⁶⁹ Martin Hägglund argues that Derrida’s thought is inherently violent and atheistic, especially as he draws out his argument in dialogue with various thinkers, including Levinas. On this see the chapter ‘Arche-Violence: Derrida & Levinas’ in Martin Hägglund, *Radical Atheism: Derrida and the Time of Life*, Meridian, Crossing Aesthetics (Stanford, CaA: Stanford University Press, 2008), 76–106. While I would tend to agree with this kind of reading, Steven Shakespeare does in fact raise some important points in response in *Derrida and Theology*, Philosophy and Theology (London and New York: T & T Clark, 2009), 204–8.

⁷⁰ Derrida, “Violence and Metaphysics,” 105. Also, see *Ibid.*, 314n.37. Derrida goes on to say in this footnote, ‘Levinas, in substance, reproaches the I-Thou relationship (1) for being reciprocal and symmetrical, thus committing violence against height, and especially against separateness, and secretiveness; (2) for being formal, capable of “uniting man to things, as much as Man to man”; (3) for preferring preference, the “private relationship,” the “clandestine nature” of the couple which is “self-sufficient and forgetful of the universe”’.

⁷¹ For more on this, see below where I examine the extent to which ‘personal’ for Levinas is actually otherwise than personal, against his own intentions.

In question here is Levinas' critique of Husserl's ego in the fifth of his *Cartesian Meditations*. Levinas rejects the Husserlian ego precisely at the point where Husserl discusses the recognition of other egos within the analogical apperception, seeing others as 'alter egos'. Graham Ward notes here that Levinas' rejection of Husserl is actually a *reversal* of Husserl's analogy of apperception: 'the Ego is now a modification of the infinitely other' which gives rise to the radical dissymmetry.⁷² As Levinas himself sees it, the ego in Husserl's version of the analogy of apperception goes awry because the ego acts in a Hegelian fashion, totalizing and subsuming all other egos into itself, such that all other egos are really a modification of my own ego, similar to a kind of Spinozistic modification of the one same substance. According to Derrida, however, this is exactly the opposite of how Husserl actually expresses the analogical apperception. For,

If the other were not recognized as a transcendental alter *ego* [in Husserl], it would be entirely in the world and not, as ego, the origin of the world. To refuse to see in it an ego in this sense is, within the ethical order, the very gesture of all violence. If the other was not recognized as ego, its entire alterity would collapse. Therefore, it seems that one may not suppose that Husserl makes of the other an other like myself (in the factual sense of the word), or a *real* modification of *my life*, without misconstruing his most permanent and openly stated intentions. If the Other was a real moment of my egological life, if 'inclusion of an other monad within my own' (*Cartesian Meditations*) was real, I would perceive it *originaliter*. Husserl does not cease to emphasize that this is an absolute impossibility.⁷³

Likewise, Ward remarks that '[w]ithin Husserl's thinking there is no room for an absolutely other that can be recognized as such'.⁷⁴ Because the other has an 'egoity' about which I can speak, similar to how I speak of and understand my own ego, this allows me to speak of him or her as an Other—at all—as opposed to a table or a stone. This allows for recognition within the economy

⁷² Graham Ward, *Barth, Derrida and the Language of Theology* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1995), 152.

⁷³ Derrida, "Violence and Metaphysics," 125. Bernasconi makes an astute observation at this point: 'There is some curiosity in finding Derrida, albeit in 1964, apparently according a special privilege to whether an author recognizes himself in an interpretation of his works. Did Levinas recognize himself when he read Derrida's interpretation and would it have posed a problem for Derrida's reading had he not done so? Did not Derrida himself in the same place insist on the difference between Levinas's "intentions" and his "philosophical discourse"?' Bernasconi, "'Failure of Communication as a Surplus,'" 107.

⁷⁴ Ward, *Barth, Derrida and the Language of Theology*, 152.

of the transcendental ego. Derrida emphasizes that '[d]issymmetry itself would be impossible without this symmetry, which is not of the world, and which, having no real aspect, imposes no limit upon alterity and dissymmetry—[it] makes them possible, on the contrary'.⁷⁵ While Derrida would later go on to critique most forms of thought and being that fall within an economy,⁷⁶ here he defends this dissymmetry as 'an *economy* in a new sense; a sense which would probably be intolerable to Levinas'.⁷⁷

Particularly enlightening is Derrida's next statement: 'Despite the logical absurdity of this formulation, this economy is the *transcendental symmetry of two empirical asymmetries*'.⁷⁸ The complexity of this statement notwithstanding, what I want to argue is that Derrida is correct to argue this, for it seems to accord with everyday experience. For example, a common expression, often uttered in a semi-cynical tone, goes like this: 'You are unique...just like everybody else!' The 'just like everybody else' refrain is most often added as if to take back with the left hand what the right hand has given, as if to say, 'actually, because you are unique just like everybody else, that makes you not very unique after all!' But, to consider the original phrase for a moment ('you are unique just like everybody else'), this is exactly what the advent of describing the incommunicability of the person is supposed to intend in the first place.⁷⁹ Thomas Aquinas expresses the exact same logic in the *Summa Theologica* when he is asked whether the term 'person' is common to all three persons of the Holy Trinity: for it would seem that, following Richard of St Victor, because persons are incommunicable, all three could not be persons. Thomas responds, saying, 'Although person is incommunicable, yet the mode itself of incommunicable existence can be common to many'.⁸⁰ If the mode of incommunicability was not common to all, then the consequence of this would be that there could only be one person in existence,

⁷⁵ Derrida, "Violence and Metaphysics," 126.

⁷⁶ See, e.g., Jacques Derrida, *Given Time: I. Counterfeit Money*, trans. Peggy Kamuf (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1992).

⁷⁷ Derrida, "Violence and Metaphysics," 126, emphasis in original.

⁷⁸ *Ibid.*, 126, emphasis mine.

⁷⁹ For helpful accounts on incommunicability, see John F. Crosby, *The Selfhood of the Human Person* (Washington, D. C.: The Catholic University of America Press, 1996), 41–81; Hans Urs von Balthasar, "On the Concept of Person," *Communio* 13, no. 1 (Spring 1986): 18–26 at 18.

⁸⁰ *ST*, I, q. 30, a. 4 ad 2.

just like Spinoza's one substance with many modifications. In this case there would be only one person of the Trinity, and what then are the rest of us humans? To this, as Adrian Pabst remarks in a strikingly similar way to Derrida above, 'there is an asymmetrical relation between unity and diversity which is grounded in a symmetrical relation within the triune Godhead and which provides the foundation for peaceful practicing relations across creation'.⁸¹ How would we appear to each other and how would we ever recognize ourselves without some sort of Husserlian analogy of the ego—or some other philosophically and theologically worthy equivalent?⁸²

Because Levinas rejects the analogous vision of Husserl, what in fact happens is that the person in Levinas' ethics actually vanishes altogether. And it does this by precisely falling prey to his own critique of Husserl with the following logic: the only real person is the Other who accuses us from the hither side of being, beyond essence, and this Other we never actually encounter at all in any particular way, so, we are thus left to be accused violently on this side of being. That is, the real self is really the Illeity of the third (whom we never meet), and because Levinas denies the analogy, which implies that we can never recognize the Other (for anytime we speak of content this falls into that which is 'thematizable' and the 'Same' for Levinas), let alone ourselves. Even though Levinas almost inchoately accepts the analogy when he says, '[a]lterity is only possible starting from *me*,'⁸³ and even

⁸¹ Adrian Pabst, "The Primacy of Relation over Substance and the Recovery of a Theological Metaphysics," *American Catholic Philosophical Quarterly* 81, no. 4 (2007): 553–78 at 577.

⁸² W. Norris Clarke, "The 'We Are' of Interpersonal Dialogue," in *Explorations in Metaphysics: Being—God—Person* (Notre Dame, IN: University of Notre Dame Press, 1994), 31–44. Here Clarke makes a similar argument to my own except Clarke is responding to the anti-Realism found in Kant and his heirs. In this enlightening article, he helpfully compliments Thomas's *esse commune* with the existential findings of Twentieth-century phenomenologists. Clark moves from the aspect of epistemologically perceiving others as "like me" (p. 38) to the recognition of a metaphysically-shared, and common existence of the "we are" (p. 40) Additionally see John Crosby, "The Empathetic Understanding of Other Persons," in *Personalist Papers* (Washington, D. C.: Catholic University of America Press, 2003), 33–63. For an account which critiques what he considers analogical reasoning, see the chapter 'The Perception of Other Minds' in Max Scheler, *The Nature of Sympathy*, trans. Peter Heath (New Brunswick, NJ: Transaction Publishers, 2007), 238–64. Crosby, in the chapter mentioned above, offers a critique of Scheler. I would add that it seems that because Scheler is operating under the assumption that such 'mediation' is a bad thing, that is misunderstanding the real kind of personal analogy which Thomas Aquinas argues for, and for which I am arguing in this thesis which does not subsume two things (or people) to a third concept.

⁸³ Levinas, *Totality and Infinity*, 305.

though Bettina Bergo insists that '[t]he encounter with a face is inevitably personal,'⁸⁴ there is a real problem here, as David Bentley Hart avers: 'the other—to remain truly other—cannot in any way actually *appear*: neither by way of phenomenology's analogies and reductions, nor by way of any prior understanding of being and beings, nor within the reach of simple recognition (in every case, one remains within the confines of the Same). Rather, alterity is intimated solely in moments of rupture or discontinuity; the otherness that makes demands of us is alien to us, from beyond the totality'.⁸⁵ The Other never actually appears in Levinas because he continually denies context, place, any sort of features whatsoever. Besides 'the countenance,' says John Llewelyn commenting in a positive fashion on Levinas, 'the face has no features or properties or substance, no *ousia*. The *significance* of the face is *abstract* [emphasis mine], but its abstractness is prior to the abstractness defined by the structuralist as the separability of the intersubstitutability of propositional signs from a given empirical embodiment'.⁸⁶ How does one recognize an abstract significance of the face, let alone anything or *anyone* at all that possesses no substance? When Hart remarks that 'the other is always the same, always nothing but the infinite orientation of *my* ethical adventure, my flight of the alone to the alone, secure in my purity of intention,'⁸⁷ what he is indicating here is that the denial of the analogy—an analogy which can only be the form of charity—means that Levinas' real person in the (non-)form of the Other is only one, same, un-communicable person. How would the Other

⁸⁴ Bettina Bergo, "The Face in Levinas: Toward a Phenomenology of Substitution," *Angelaki* 16, no. 1 (2011): 17.

⁸⁵ Hart, *The Beauty Of The Infinite*, 77. For a discussion of this text, see the symposium in *New Blackfriars* vol. 88 in the following articles: James K. A. Smith, "Questions About the Perception of 'Christian Truth': On the Affective Effects of Sin," *New Blackfriars* 88, no. 1017 (2007): 585–93; Lois Malcolm, "On David Hart's The Beauty of the Infinite," *New Blackfriars* 88, no. 1017 (2007): 594–99; Gerard Loughlin, "Rhetoric and Rhapsody: A Response to David Bentley Hart's The Beauty of the Infinite," *New Blackfriars* 88, no. 1017 (2007): 600–609; David Bentley Hart, "Response to James K. A. Smith, Lois Malcolm and Gerard Loughlin," *New Blackfriars* 88, no. 1017 (2007): 610–23.

⁸⁶ Llewelyn, "Levinas and Language," 120. To this kind of thinking, Hart, "Response to James K. A. Smith, Lois Malcolm and Gerard Loughlin," 616. says, 'At least, in the thought of Levinas and the later Derrida, "others" are nowhere to be found. Instead, one encounters only the Other, who—as far as I can tell—is obligingly devoid of an identity, a faith, an address, or any stated opinion regarding the designated hitter rule (a reference I fear only American readers will understand). In fact, the most attractive quality of the Other, I suspect, is his or her or its absolute purity from any of the obnoxious traits of others: convictions, prejudices, and customs; passions, discontents, and aspirations; and so on'.

⁸⁷ Hart, *The Beauty Of The Infinite*, 82.

even know how to recognize the Same to accuse him or her if there was not some way to charitably say, ‘This person seems like another person, although they’re obviously not me, but because I recognize that they are *like* me, then they must be an *other* person’?

With an absolute accusation, an absolute an-archic heteronomy which means that asymmetry comes first and foremost as rupture, Levinas could only ever say within the boundaries he has set for his ethics: ‘The obsessing Other is unique’—full stop: not like everybody else, at all. Buber, in his reply to Levinas’ criticism of his own emphasis on the symmetry of relation, rightly said, ‘The asymmetry that wishes to limit the relation to the relationship to a higher would make it completely one-sided: love would either be unreciprocated by its nature or each of the two lovers must miss the reality of the other’.⁸⁸ By its nature, the accusation of the obsessive Other must remain unreciprocated, for if it was reciprocated, it would seem that Levinas would lose all ‘height’ of the Other. But Levinas cannot conceive of a transcendence that is not purely negative, and thus this ‘height’ always shows itself as alienating. On this matter, Puntel remarks, ‘Real, genuine transcendence is *within the sphere of* (subjective genitive!) *absolute infinity*, not outside of it. God as the absolutely transcendent, as the “absolute Other” in Levinas’s sense, is a relativized God, a God who stands in a negative relation to an X, i.e., finite being(s). This is the most central error in Levinas’s conception of God as absolutely transcendent’.⁸⁹ Buber and Derrida correctly perceive that beginning from an originary asymmetry with the Other beyond Being simply cannot work, for this presumption loses the other person either by command (as Lyotard saw), or it brings one to a contradictory standstill of not knowing whether one can substitute oneself for another because they are originally ‘irreplaceable’ (as Desmond showed), or it denies all commonsense

⁸⁸ Bernasconi, ‘Failure of Communication as a Surplus’, 112, citing Buber in Martin Buber, *Philosophical Interrogations: Interrogations of Buber, Wild, Wahl, Blanshard, Weiss, Hartshorne, Tillich*, ed. Sydney Chester Rome and Beatrice K. Rome (New York: Harper and Row, 1964), 28. Indeed, Bernasconi adds, ‘It is necessary to consider whether Levinas’s account does have that implication’ (Bernasconi, “Failure of Communication as a Surplus,” 112).

⁸⁹ Puntel, *Being and God*, 299, emphasis in original.

relationality to Being and to one another (Buber and Puntel),⁹⁰ or finally, as I have just demonstrated, altogether persons are lost in that they miss the reality of each other. If there is more than one person at all, there must be something—or *someone*—that makes this analogy subsist.

e. *Persons: Communing in the Accusative of Creation*

To conclude this exploration of the accusative, I return now to the focus upon the nature of the ‘accusative’ with reference to the grammatical-ethical-ontological insights of Jean-Luc Marion, Michel Henry, and Franz Rosenzweig in order to help illuminate what is at stake for gesturing towards a fuller account of the human person. Above, I have shown that the otherness of persons requires some sort of ‘symmetry’, a transcendental something (someone?) that makes all of our radical uniqueness possible in the first instance; that is, the necessity for some kind of ‘analogy’ has emerged.⁹¹ In the grammatical sections before that, I showed how the grammar of the accusative in Levinas’ thought functions, on the one hand, in relation to the persecution by the Other, and on the other hand, in relation to the passivity of creation which also appears to exist in the accusative. It is true, as J. Aaron Simmons and David Wood comment, that ‘[w]hen Levinas distinguishes between the vocative (accusative) and the constative (nominative) elements in language, he

⁹⁰ While it is outside of the scope of this analysis, Puntel also highlights another crucial error in Levinas: ‘Levinas falls victim to an absolutely elementary confusion—one between knowledge and a practical attitude or practical act. He fails to find in knowledge something that belongs not there, but instead in the domain of practical behavior and action. When he maintains, “The most audacious and remote knowledge does not put us in communion with the truly other; it does not take the place of sociality,” he reveals his deep confusion. It is of course the case that “the most audacious and remote knowledge does not put us in communion with the truly other,” if the sense of communion in question is one that belongs in the domain of practical action. Knowledge is not practical action, is not (practical) recognition of the other, is not (practical) respect of the other, is not real love of the other, or anything of the sort. But *on the theoretical level* the other is *known*, is *articulated*, precisely *as* the other. It is of course the case that sociality does not have the same structure that knowledge has. That Levinas does not see this as obvious reveals the depth of his confusion’ (Ibid., 287).

⁹¹ To be sure, Levinas himself constructs a kind of analogy between the other (*l’autre*) and the Other (*l’Autre*), but what is gestured toward here in his thought still remains within a kind of radical heterogeneity which always arrives violently.

does so with an eye toward human relationships and not simply a concern for the philosophy of language'.⁹² While this may have been Levinas' intent, as I have shown above, not only do relationships become impossible within such a radically asymmetrically heteronomous ethics, but moreover, the person itself disappears into a Spinozan One which is not immanently and pantheistically here, but somehow lives 'beyond essence' on the hither side of being (even Buber, who originally disallowed any kind of mediation in his original I-Thou schema recognized the importance of an original, analogous 'Absolute Person').⁹³ Yet at the same time, Levinas' grammatical focus also intends to say something ontological about the passivity of creation.⁹⁴ Levinas is actually correct to argue that creation is passive in the accusative sense and that at times we can be accused, and even stand accused in front of our Creator, but this is not the last, nor especially the first word. To emphasize the accusative and turn the pun of the accusation by the Other into the primary way that the self can exist is in fact an extremely impoverished way to approach not only language, but also the mutuality of existence itself. The grammar here is important, as it indicates and signifies realities beyond mere descriptive grammars and 'thick descriptions,'⁹⁵ however much these grammars may be helpful as limiting prolegomena to analogical speech.⁹⁶

⁹² J. Aaron Simmons and David Wood, "Introduction: Good Fences May Not Make Good Neighbors After All," in *Kierkegaard and Levinas: Ethics, Politics, and Religion* (Indianapolis, IN: Indiana University Press, 2010), 2. To be precise here, however, the vocative is actually a separate case than the accusative, one which would come 'before' the accusative in the dative sense of giving, address, and supplication.

⁹³ See the afterword at Buber, *I and Thou*, 101.

⁹⁴ Although, of course, he would reject the designation of the 'ontological', opting instead (in *Totality and Infinity*) for 'metaphysics'.

⁹⁵ For example, that of Clifford Geertz and some within the theological sensibility dubbed 'Post-Liberal' associated with George Lindbeck and Hans Frei of the Yale School. However, it must be noted that the arguments of Lindbeck in *The Nature of Doctrine: Religion and Theology in a Postliberal Age* (London: SPCK, 1984) have often been misconstrued in an over-excitement to focus upon the "grammar" aspect forgetting that this can only be made sense of within Lindbeck's original ecumenical concerns. For more on this, see chapter 3, "I Pray That They Might Be One as We Are One": An Interview with George Lindbeck' of John W. Wright, ed., *Postliberal Theology and the Church Catholic: Conversations with George Lindbeck, David Burrell, and Stanley Hauerwas* (Grand Rapids, MI: Brazos Press, 2012).

⁹⁶ These concerns can be seen most astutely in the work of David Burrell, C.S.C., who follows the insights of Ludwig Wittgenstein and Victor Preller to construct a 'Wittgensteinian-Thomism'. See Victor Preller, *Divine Science and the Science of God: A Reformulation of Thomas Aquinas* (Princeton, N.J.: Princeton University Press, 1967); David B. Burrell, *Analogy and Philosophical Language* (New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 1973); David B. Burrell, *Aquinas: God and Action* (Scranton and London: University of Scranton Press, 2008), 63–81, 97–100, e.g., "determine what must be stated grammatically, so that we can

The grammatical preliminaries in the previous sections were necessary for my argument, because at stake here is what it means to ‘stand accused’: standing accused always means standing within a further witness to the truth, and thus the grammar here also indicates that the accusative only ever makes sense within an ordinary *dative*, a giving,⁹⁷ a vocative calling of Creation out of nothing and giving the gift of existence and redemption itself. To exist as a person means always to first be given (dative) that personhood, standing under (*hypostasis*) the relation of the First Person in which all of creation itself is held together (Col 1:17). But it also means that being a person is to be at the same time one who is *named*.

Derrida had similar misgivings of reducing everything to the accusative at the expense of all else, as early as his ‘Violence and Metaphysics’ essay. Wondering what the encounter with the absolutely-other actually entails, he says, ‘the concept (material of language), which is always *given to the other*, cannot encompass the other, cannot include the other. The dative or vocative dimension which opens the original direction of language, cannot lend itself to inclusion in and modification by the accusative or attributive dimension of the object without violence’.⁹⁸ For Derrida this is in fact an inescapable violence, but it is the only way to precede (in contrast to Levinas’ later Gnostic attempt to escape all being). So for now, in the meantime, Derrida insists on not speaking of the other in the accusative, as this in fact makes the other an object. Rather, as Derrida intones, ‘I can only, I *must* only speak to the other; that is, I must call him in the vocative, which is not a category, a *case of*

recognize what sort of things cannot be asserted of God” (Ibid., 97); and the essays in Jeffrey Stout and Robert MacSwain, eds., *Grammar and Grace: Reformulations of Aquinas and Wittgenstein* (London: SCM Press, 2004).

⁹⁷ Robert B. Gibbs, “Substitution: Marcel and Levinas,” in *Emmanuel Levinas: Critical Assessments of Leading Philosophers*, ed. Claire Katz and Lara Trout, trans. Jeffrey L. Kosky, vol. 3: Levinas and the Question of Religion (London and New York: Routledge, 2005), 159–60, originally printed in: *Philosophy & Theology* 4 (Winter 1989): 171–85: “Absolute passivity taken grammatically is being absolutely in the accusative case, to be the object. This allows Levinas the pun on an indeclinable case—one which cannot be declined through the cases to become a subject of action (nominative), nor an indirect object (dative), nor a possession (genitive).” The problem with passages like this is that it overlooks that the dative does not merely act as indicating a direct object, but comes primarily, as stated above, from giving, which then can also include other functions as indicating a direct object, or the subject to whom one addresses or gives supplication.

⁹⁸ Derrida, “Violence and Metaphysics,” 95, emphasis Derrida’s.

speech, but, rather the bursting forth, the very raising up of speech'.⁹⁹ That is, the least violent way one can call upon the other is by calling (vocative) the name of the other. The name itself need not be a totalizing 'theme' as Levinas constantly insists, but rather, it is the spring of language itself, and more importantly, the only truly personal way to address other persons.

Giving also implies, one may always hope, a welcoming, a reception. Jean-Luc Marion, writing on very Levinasian themes in an essay entitled 'The Final Appeal of the Subject,' also gives voice to the fuller picture of the canvas of language.

It is no longer a question of comprehending this giving according to the nominative case (Husserl) or according to the genitive case (of Being: Heidegger) nor even according to the accusative case (Levinas), but rather according to the dative case—I receive *myself* from the call or appeal which gives me to myself. It would almost be necessary to suppose that this strange dative case was not here distinguished from the ablative case (as in Greek), since the *myself/me* accomplishes, insofar as it is the first gift which derives from the appeal or call, the opening of all other donations or gifts and particular givens, which are possibly ethical. As a given dative, an ablative giving, one might say that the *myself/me* is played out in the manner of the oblique. Receiving itself from the call or appeal which summons it, the *myself/me* undergoes an interlocution—defining the fact of its pure donation—by reducing every other possible phenomenon to pure donation according to interlocution. Interlocution thus marks the ultimate phenomenological reduction.¹⁰⁰

More cognizant of language's own reciprocity, Marion appears here to reduce Levinas' absolute accusative (and obsessive accusation) to the 'interlocutionary'. By itself this move allows for reciprocity, the give-and-take of gifts and the mutual supplication expected of one another (i.e. 'I expect to

⁹⁹ Ibid., 103.

¹⁰⁰ Jean-Luc Marion, "The Final Appeal of the Subject," in *The Religious*, ed. John D. Caputo (Malden, MA: Blackwell Publishers, 2002), 140. Prior to this article, see also Jean-Luc Marion, "A Note Concerning the Ontological Indifference," in *Emmanuel Levinas: Critical Assessments of Leading Philosophers*, ed. Claire Katz and Lara Trout, trans. Jeffrey L. Kosky, vol. 1: Levinas, Phenomenology, and His Critics, 4 vols. (London and New York: Routledge, 2005), 312–25. And see the similar claim made of 'a more original dative' in Jean-Luc Marion, *Being Given: Toward a Phenomenology of Givenness*, trans. Jeffrey L. Kosky (Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press, 2002), 249. For a recent critical account, see the chapter 'Marion's Dative Subject and the "Principle of Principles"' in Ian Leask, *Being Reconfigured* (Newcastle upon Tyne: Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2011), 25–43 and 125–6. On the (direct and indirect) debate with Levinas, see Christina M. Gschwandtner, "The Neighbor and the Infinite: Marion and Levinas on the Encounter Between Self, Human Other, and God," *Continental Philosophy Review* 40, no. 3 (2007): 231–49.

tell you when I am wrong’), but it also allows for the very receiving of one’s own personhood in and through the other, the interlocutor. A feast, a communion, can only be possible in such a picture of reception. Yet, because Levinas excludes this from the start with a wholly anonymous other, it seems that there can be no feasting: ‘The relationship with the other is not an idyllic and harmonious relationship of communion, or a sympathy through which we put ourselves in the other’s place...the relationship with the other is a relationship with a Mystery’.¹⁰¹ While it is true that relating to the other is relating to a mystery, Levinas’ assumptions concerning this relation are entirely negative; that is, on the flip side, there is still a possibility that positively, the person is both a mystery and that moreover, a relationship of communion may very well be possible precisely because the other still has a name—the nominative need not be ruled out. Simply because the person is a mystery does not mean that one cannot *relate* to them, unless, of course, from the start one rules out the assumption that the other might be ‘like’ me, in the sense of a simile or an analogy.

I will address one further attempt that has been made to soften the terrorizing language of Levinas. Robert Bernasconi has written an essay connecting Levinas with Augustine entitled ‘The Truth that Accuses: Conscience, Shame, and Guilt in Levinas and Augustine’.¹⁰² In some ways his attempt to connect Levinas and Augustine are very laudable, and the connection is more than implicit. For example, Bernasconi finds evidence to compare Levinas with Augustine playing on an ambiguity between a truth that also calls one into question: ‘In this lecture [called “Notes sur le sense”] from 1979, that was first published in 1981, and reprinted in a revised version in *De Dieu qui vient à l’idée* the following year, Levinas offered two translations of the phrase *veritas redarguens*. It is both the truth which accuses and the truth which puts in question.”¹⁰³ The effect of this historical connection is an attempt to temper the connotations of legal accusation and moreover, against a

¹⁰¹ Levinas, *Time and the Other*, 75; cited in Hart, *The Beauty Of The Infinite*, 78.

¹⁰² Robert Bernasconi, “The Truth That Accuses: Conscience, Shame and Guilt in Levinas and Augustine,” in *The Ethics of Postmodernity: Current Trends in Continental Thought*, Northwestern University Studies in Phenomenology & Existential Philosophy (Evanston, IL: Northwestern University Press, 1999), 24–34.

¹⁰³ *Ibid.*, 26.

daily legalism of telling one to do this and that.¹⁰⁴ The conscience that Levinas describes, beyond making one guilty—for this is what an accusation implies—is meant to induce shame as well as a kind of anxiety.¹⁰⁵ But the primary argument that Bernasconi makes is that by subordinating the ontological order to the ethical in this way, ‘it points to his attempt to free ethics from its dependence on a legalistic model’.¹⁰⁶

At first blush, this is an extremely odd claim to make. Is not the opposite exactly the case? Is it not the pure imperative of the ethical that comes before any consideration of the beauty, truth, and goodness of existence the very basis for the worst legalisms? Moreover, does not the reduction of all personal address to the accusative sound like the most juridical nightmare? That is, to constantly be told that ‘*You* are to blame’, ‘*You* are the one who did this’, etc.—how is this accusation *not* legalistic, let alone condemning? As mentioned, Levinas does tell us that alterity begins from a ‘me’, and that his ethical response is to announce (always in the accusative) a denuded-by-the-other ‘Here I am’ (*me voici*). But as Marion and the early Derrida have pointed out, this cannot be primary. One must first give the gift of the other by calling upon their name, even if in the worst turn of events you are guilty for any number of wrongs. The supplication to forgive always first responds back in the dative calling upon a nominative in the vocative, that is, an address to someone with a name in the mode of address; otherwise, responding in the *accusative*¹⁰⁷ in kind is what leads to escalation and ultimately, against all of Levinas’ intentions, to war.

For a positive account of the accusative within the larger economy of the giving of creation, I now turn to the thought of Franz Rosenzweig and Michel Henry. These two thinkers have extremely divergent approaches to thinking and constellations of thought in which they inhabit. That is, Rosenzweig is

¹⁰⁴ Ibid., 29.

¹⁰⁵ Ibid., 34.

¹⁰⁶ Ibid.

¹⁰⁷ One can think of any number of arguments one has had or witness where two people constantly exchange an accusatory *You*. Forgiveness *never* begins here. Another kind of ‘*You*’, similar in kind to Buber’s ‘*Thou*’, is found in the thought of Eugen Rosenstock-Huussy. On this more unifying and revelatory dimension of the soul, see Gibbs, *Correlations in Rosenzweig and Levinas*, 64–7, esp. 66.

largely responding to the idealism of the ‘all’ in Hegel,¹⁰⁸ and Henry is articulating his philosophy to a great extent by reacting against Heidegger’s¹⁰⁹ concept of the manifestation of truth.¹¹⁰ Both thinkers, however, share an attentiveness to language that includes significant references to the accusative aspect of grammar, not merely for grammar’s sake, but to indicate a deep ontological aspect of the person and of creation.

Rather than primarily structuring his work around grammatical cases, Rosenzweig traces the contours of his theological concepts around grammatical moods, and around the concepts of the call.¹¹¹ Particularly, he orders the concepts of Creation, Revelation, and Redemption respectively around the three moods of the indicative, the imperative, and cohortative, which themselves correspond to the three tenses of past, present, and future. While I will not explore the details of these grammatical moods here,¹¹² I will address his work insofar as it does refer to the same cases of grammar addressed above.

Under a threatening Idealism that attempted to sublimate all particulars into an ‘all’ without language, Rosenzweig, much like Kierkegaard and especially Hamann before him, turned to language to embrace the particular.¹¹³ One of

¹⁰⁸ His main work being *The Star of Redemption*.

¹⁰⁹ For a helpful comparison of Heidegger and Rosenzweig, see Richard A. Cohen, “Selfhood in Heidegger and Rosenzweig,” *Human Studies* 16, no. 1/2 (1993): 111–28. While they share many concerns, one of their main differences is that Rosenzweig upholds the notion of the soul [*Seele*] in his thought (see pp. 121-3).

¹¹⁰ For Henry, see Michel Henry, *The Essence of Manifestation*, trans. Girard Etzkorn (The Hague: Nijhoff, 1973); Michel Henry, *I Am the Truth: Toward a Philosophy of Christianity*, trans. Susan Emanuel, Cultural Memory in the Present (Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press, 2003).

¹¹¹ ‘The point of departure for [Eugen] Rosenstock[-Huessy]’s grammar is that the second person (the “you”) is originary: a child begins to become conscious of itself through the commands addressed to it; and a person becomes a person by responding when addressed and thereby discovering the “I” of the first person. The “you” is the experience of being called; the “I” of answering; the ‘he, she, it’ of what cannot give an answer, and therefore of what cannot be addressed. The soul thus becomes aware of itself first from outside, finding itself something other. The child discovers its “I” as the ability to answer, to say “yes” or “no”, to that call from the other’ (Ibid., 64; citing Eugen Rosenstock-Huessy, “Angewandte Seelenkunde,” in *Die Sprache Des Menschengeschlechts*, vol. 2 [Heidelberg: Verlag Lambert Schneider, 1963], 754). For more on the connection between Rosenzweig and Rosenstock-Huessy, see Gibbs, *Correlations in Rosenzweig and Levinas*, 59, 62–7.

¹¹² For an overview on this, see Gibbs, *Correlations in Rosenzweig and Levinas*, 67–79. For Rosenzweig’s own grammatical introduction to book II, see Rosenzweig, *The Star of Redemption*, 118–21.

¹¹³ On Hamann, see the excellent John R. Betz, *After Enlightenment: The Post-Secular Vision of J. G. Hamann*, 1st Edition, Illuminations (Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell, 2008), esp. 89–164.

Rosenzweig's tactics was to emphasize the *named* quality of language, something with which German Idealism could not cope: 'for even if everything in it [Idealism] could be translated into the universal—there remained the fact of having a first and last name, the most personal thing in the strictest and narrowest sense of the word, and everything depended precisely on that personal reality, as the bearers of these experiences asserted'.¹¹⁴ Idealism cannot ultimately account for the particular of the name for, if it is especially of the Hegelian type of Idealism which begins bathed in the aether of Spinozism,¹¹⁵ then the subjectivity of the person tends to get lost. Michael Mack points out that the immanent production of transcendence in Idealism is really that of an 'anti-creaturely theology', which for Rosenzweig means that it does 'away with its contingent, "bodily" foundation'.¹¹⁶ If Idealism does away with bodily realities, then what, or more precisely *who* is saved in a theology of redemption? Rosenzweig's describes his approach: 'From Creation, we had sought the path to Revelation'.¹¹⁷ Mack articulates the movement of the argument thus: 'Rosenzweig ... affirmed the independence of God, world, and man, only to prepare the ground for their correlation, in which, thanks to the distance between these three entities, love of one for the other becomes possible'.¹¹⁸

The call of the proper name, for Rosenzweig, opens the world of Revelation up into genuine dialogue, and like Buber's I-Thou in contrast to the I-It relation, 'a breach is opened in the fixed wall of thingliness'.¹¹⁹ What's

¹¹⁴ Rosenzweig, *The Star of Redemption*, 13.

¹¹⁵ 'When one begins to philosophize one must be first a Spinozist. The soul must bathe itself in the aether of this single substance, in which everything one has held for true is submerged' (Hegel, *Werke XX*, 165, as cited in Frederick C. Beiser, 'Introduction: Hegel and the Problem of Metaphysics', in *Cambridge Companion to Hegel*, ed. Frederick C. Beiser [Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1993], 5).

¹¹⁶ "Franz Rosenzweig, or The Body's Independence from the Body Politic," in Michael Mack, *German Idealism and the Jew: The Inner Anti-Semitism of Philosophy and German Jewish Responses* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2003), 120–1.

¹¹⁷ Rosenzweig, *The Star of Redemption*, 202–3. 'Von der Schöpfung hatten wir den Weg zur Offenbarung gesucht' (Franz Rosenzweig, *Der Stern Der Erlösung* [Frankfurt am Main: Suhrkamp, 1990], 209).

¹¹⁸ Mack, *German Idealism and the Jew*, 121.

¹¹⁹ Rosenzweig, *The Star of Redemption*, 201. This is not to overlook the disagreements between Buber and Rosenzweig. On debates concerning issues of translation and the law, see respectively, Leora Batnitzky, *Idolatry and Representation: The Philosophy of Franz Rosenzweig Reconsidered* (Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 2000), 105–41; idem,

more, as in the case of Adam naming the creatures in Genesis, ‘The proper name lays claim to names beyond itself’.¹²⁰ That is, Adam is not merely naming by his own human fiat, but is himself taking part in the reception of revelation, of uncovering. There is an analogy to be drawn here to Balthasar’s understanding of truth: ‘truth is always an opening, not just to itself and in itself, but to further truth. It dis-covers being and thus the rich coherence of being. It opens up the prospect of hitherto unknown territory. It contains within itself a movement toward further truth’.¹²¹ This means that for Rosenzweig, the experience that is lived personally shares in existence with others in a particular place, which ‘demands being founded in Creation [...]’.¹²² The warp and woof of language can only be woven into a particular place in Creation, for it is the very clay that grammar molds, and only in such a place does language move and have its being. Thus, it is in such a place that Rosenzweig describes the cases of grammar:

It is only as object that it travels through the “cases”; as *nominative* in a passive sentence, it is only a camouflaged *accusative* or, in any case and more accurately: a prediction of the subject still veiled in the form of the object. In the *genitive*, the possessive form, there flows together a double current that came from the nominative and the accusative; after the confluence, they assume, in the dative, their own name and their own direction. But the *dative*, the form of belonging, of offering, of thanking, of both surrendering and making an effort, goes beyond the mere object and the mere point of departure; in the dative, subject and object meet.¹²³

Because he is not fearful of Creation, of Being, Rosenzweig is able to think the full fabric of being, and express its full texture with an entire grammar. He does not reduce everything to the accusative like Levinas, but can still use it to describe Creation. Moreover, divine and human freedom are never at odds in his thought, for the grammar seems to give a way to freely talk about these two agencies: ‘The nouns of this chapter, due to the fact that God alone takes the place of the active subject, are objects in the accusative, objects created by

“Revelation and Neues Denken - Rethinking Buber and Rosenzweig on the Law,” in *New Perspectives on Martin Buber*, ed. Michael Zank (Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck, 2006), 149–64.

¹²⁰ Rosenzweig, *The Star of Redemption*, 201.

¹²¹ Hans Urs von Balthasar, *Theo-Logic: Theological Logical Theory: Truth of the World*, trans. Adrian J. Walker, vol. I (San Francisco, CA: Ignatius Press, 2000), 39.

¹²² Rosenzweig, *The Star of Redemption*, 202.

¹²³ *Ibid.*, 140, emphasis mine.

God; or again, as things become, in the passive nominative case: “the” heavens and “the” earth’.¹²⁴ The ‘otherwise’ of which Levinas speaks can only result in a non-place, a ‘world [that] remains in the night of the absence of names’.¹²⁵ There is no need for the rupture of the nominative by the accusative in Rosenzweig’s thought, because his use of the nominative case need not be ‘thematizing’ in a totalizing sense, for Rosenzweig is also against such Hegelian totality. Names can be ‘in’ the nominative, but also the accusative, and they signify not themes but *persons*. Spoken more precisely, the name (nominative) reveals a person in that it *names* a person.

The nominative and accusative are never rigid in Rosenzweig, because of the fact that they only refer to a person who experiences life but may also refer to the Creator. Here he speaks of ‘two kinds of subjects, two kinds of nominatives; likewise that which he possesses and that which he sees is separate from that which the world possesses and sees; these are two kinds of objects, two kinds of accusatives’.¹²⁶ And because the one to whom the creature gives thanks is not an ‘object’ in the strict sense but is ‘the very one to whom the whole world gives thanks’, this signifies the reality of the lived relation which he describes as the dative:

In the dative, which transcends all, there are hidden the voices of the hearts separated here below. The dative is that which joins, that which gathers together; he who receives, for example the act of thanks as is the case here, does not for this reason become the property of what is given to him; he remains beyond the one who gives, and because he remains beyond the singular giver, he can become the point where all can be united; the dative which truly joins can be that which truly unties every bond knotted beyond the truth, every inessential bond, can be that [which] re-deems—let us give thanks to God.¹²⁷

Commenting upon Rosenzweig’s understanding of the dative, Robert Gibbs remarks, ‘the dative case structures the unity of the cohortative singing of

¹²⁴ Ibid., 164.

¹²⁵ Ibid., 202. This phrase seems to parody Hegel’s critique of F. Schelling in which subjectivity is lost in a ‘night in which all cows are black’. See Georg Wilhelm Friedrich Hegel, *Phenomenology of Spirit*, trans. A. V. Miller (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1979), 9 [§16]. For a detailed discussion of this fraught relationship between Hegel and Schelling on this matter, see Jason M. Wirth, *The Conspiracy of Life: Meditations on Schelling and His Time* (Albany, NY: SUNY Press, 2003), 12–23.

¹²⁶ Rosenzweig, *The Star of Redemption*, 250.

¹²⁷ Ibid.

beloved and world; it represents the recipient of the gift, the person who is neither simply the subject of the action (the giver) nor the object acted upon (the gift).¹²⁸ The dative contains the original Yes to the world,¹²⁹ the giving of Creation, as well as the receiving in itself of this gift.

It is now for the first time in this chapter that we can situate ourselves within the original ‘causal’ sense (*aitia*) of the ‘accusative’, before its Latin mistranslation. The unifying and thanks-giving aspect of the dative, which Rosenzweig highlights, brings this causal aspect to the fore: ‘Every act of thanks is concentrated in the dative; the act of thanks gives thanks for the gift; when giving thanks to God, one confesses the *origin of the gift in him*, one recognizes in him the one who answers the prayer’.¹³⁰ To acknowledge that Creation is a gift, and that one is a gift within this prior gift of Creation, is to acknowledge the original giving of the gift by the Creator—the original ‘real order’ of giving which we have been calling the ‘dative’. Yet, if it is true that creatures can only know their Creator by the effects of the Creator¹³¹ (although this is not exhaustive),¹³² then we can now see that the ‘accusative’ represents that ‘order of knowledge’ as perceived by creatures; in other words, the ‘accusative’ represents that reasonable intuition that recognizes one’s status as an ‘effect’ from an original cause, that is: ontologically, to ‘stand accused’ means to be caused, or rather, *created*. The ‘two kinds of accusatives’ of which Rosenzweig speaks above are the ‘real’ order and the order that comes ‘by way of creaturely knowledge’:¹³³ God creates God’s Creation, speaks

¹²⁸ Gibbs, *Correlations in Rosenzweig and Levinas*, 76.

¹²⁹ ‘The Yes is the beginning’ (Rosenzweig, *The Star of Redemption*, 34–5).

¹³⁰ *Ibid.*, 250, emphasis mine.

¹³¹ Thomas Aquinas, *Summa Contra Gentiles*, ed. Joseph Kenny OP, trans. Anton C. Pegis et al. (New York: Hanover House, 1955), I, c. 11, n. 4; II, c. 15 (hereafter ScG); Aquinas, *ST*, I, q. 1, a. 7 ad 1; q. 2, a. 1; q. 2, a. 2; q. 12, a. 8, etc.; cf. *De Ver.*, q. 2, a. 14, where Thomas says that God’s effects are mediated by secondary causes.

¹³² *ST*, I, q. 2, a. 2 ad 2; I, q. 12, aa. 11–12; *De Ver.*, I, 7.

¹³³ These are similar to, but should not be confused with the ‘real’ versus ‘conceptual’ or ‘intentional’ orders of relation between creation and God, where here ‘real’ = ‘by creaturely knowledge’ and ‘intentional’ = ‘real’. I have chosen the former designations for clarity. This comes from the fact that while creatures are really related to God, God is *intentionally* related to God’s creatures. This somewhat confusing designation (to the modern mind) is meant to foreclose against two possibilities of thinking: 1) any necessity in God being related to Creation, that is, it upholds a Creation as a *free* gift, and 2) any ‘real’ change on God’s part who, as the plenitude of all perfection, is the efficient cause of creation. On this see *ST*, I, q. 45, a. 3 ad 1; I, q. 6, a. 2 ad 1; III, q. 2, a. 7. For a discussion regarding the misunderstanding of Process Theology on this matter, see Burrell, *Aquinas: God and Action*, 97–100. A further

(vocative) and thus gives (dative) it into being as a gift, which exists as seen in the ‘real order’ of things; but the ‘by knowledge’ order consists of this experience that describes the following reality as seen from the side of creatures. As Thomas Aquinas articulates it: because ‘God is not known to us in His nature, but is made known to us from His operations or effects, we name Him from these...; hence this name “God” is a name of operation so far as [it] relates to the source of its meaning’.¹³⁴ While creation itself cannot be reduced purely to causality and also has an entire—and no less co-extensive—participatory aspect,¹³⁵ for now the above argument suffices to show that the accusative bears within it an older, more properly *causal* determination which sheds light on our discussion of grammar at a deeper ontological level.

distinction Thomas makes is that the Triune Persons are not logically related to one another, but are really related to one another (*ST*, I, q. 28, a. 1 ad 3). It is for this reason that W. Norris Clarke makes the following suggestion: ‘For it is precisely in the intentional order of knowledge and love that interpersonal relations are located. This whole domain of being simply escapes or transcends the entire set of Aristotelian categories of change, immutability, and real relation. Hence I believe we can truly say that without doing violence to his own basic metaphysical positions St. Thomas could and should say that God does have authentic mutual *personal relations* with all created persons, even though he himself would not call these by the strong technical term of “real relation”’ (W. Norris Clarke, ‘What Is Most and Least Relevant in the Metaphysics of St. Thomas Today’, in *Explorations in Metaphysics: Being—God—Person* [Notre Dame, IN: University of Notre Dame Press, 1994], 26). Clarke does not pursue this defense of Thomas on Thomas’ own technical terms, but makes a brief attempt (*Ibid.*, 26-7) to sort out this dilemma by redefining immutability, which he then expands upon in *idem*, ‘A New Look at the Immutability of God’, in *Explorations in Metaphysics*, 183–210. Immutability here is ‘controlled’ against static Greek (not to mention Cartesian and Lockean variants of substance) by an analogical notion of personhood gained by the Judeo-Christian concept of a personal God of love (*Ibid.*, 207-8).

¹³⁴ *ST*, I, q. 13, a. 8. The logic at work here mirrors the inverse directionality explicated in the difference between *res significata* and *modus significandi*. On this see *Ibid.*, I, q. 13, aa. 1, 3, 6; *ScG*, I, c. 34, n. 6. *Compendium Theologiae*, trans. Cyril Vollert, SJ (St. Louis, MO & London: B. Herder Book Co., 1947), I, 27 (hereafter *Comp. Theol.*): “as regards the assigning of the names, such names are primarily predicated of creatures, inasmuch as the intellect that assigns the names ascends from creatures to God. But as regards the thing signified by the name, they are primarily predicated of God, from whom the perfections descend to other beings.” For a detailed discussion, see Gregory P. Rocca, *Speaking the Incomprehensible God: Thomas Aquinas on the Interplay of Positive and Negative Theology* (Washington, D. C.: Catholic University of America Press, 2004), 334–52. Aaron Riches, “Being Good: Thomas Aquinas and Dionysian Causal Predication,” *Nova Et Vetera* 7, no. 2 (2009): 443: “for Denys and Aquinas, knowledge of God and naming God are tightly tied to the reality of the causal ontology of creation as such. If creation and signification are linked, then being is already a kind of predication. The act of existence mediates the cause of creation, and this mediation of God in creation makes predication of God possible.”

¹³⁵ *ST*, I, q. 13, a. 6; Thomas Aquinas, *De Potentia*, trans. English Dominican Fathers (Westminster, MD: The Newman Press, 1952), q. 7, a. 7 (hereafter *De Pot.*). Hampus Lyttkens, *The Analogy Between God and the World: An Investigation of Its Background and Interpretation of Its Use by Thomas of Aquino*, Uppsala Universitets Årsskrift 1953:5 (Uppsala: Lundequistska bokhandeln, 1953), 290–2: “If our names were merely expressing the pure causality of God, our denominations would be of the kind which, generally speaking, approach extrinsic designations.” This will be explored more fully in the next chapter.

To conclude this chapter, I turn to Michel Henry, whose thought provides further resources for considering the existence of persons in the accusative, doing so within an transcendence-within-immanence of Life's auto-affectation. For Henry, 'auto-affectation' refers to the '[a]ffectation by [the] self' that is an 'immediate experience of the self'.¹³⁶ The way that Henry translates auto-affectation's mere philosophical ambit into a simultaneously theological register is within a phenomenology of truth within a study of the person of truth in the Gospel according to John. Therefore, truth reveals itself to itself, as in: the person of Christ who is the truth (John 14:6), comes to testify to the truth (John 18:37). Thus, Henry states, 'Only Truth can attest to itself—reveal itself in and through itself'.¹³⁷ Due to the interchangeability of Life, Truth, and Way, Henry applies this logic to Life: 'what Life reveals is itself'.¹³⁸ Within this immanent auto-affectation and auto-revelation of Life, the self is given over to itself. '*Life engenders itself as me*'.¹³⁹ This causes the Self to be passive with regard to not only itself and its modalities of life, but primarily, 'the Self is passive with respect to the eternal process of Life's self-affecting that engenders it and never ceases to do so. This passivity of the singular Self within Life is what puts it into the *accusative* case and makes of it a "me" and not an "I", this Self that is passive about itself only because it is passive to begin with about Life and its absolute self-affectation'.¹⁴⁰ Attendant to our discussion of the causal nature of the accusative case above, Henry's emphasis on passivity reflects the self's createdness; the self-affectation of the 'me' attests to the primary 'I' of Life who gives it unto itself. Additionally, the reason that the Self is constantly in the accusative case for Henry 'is because it holds fast to its own experience, which is not that of being affected but of being constantly self-affected, within itself, in a self-affectation that is independent of

¹³⁶ Henry, *The Essence of Manifestation*, 189, 462, respectively. Furthermore, auto-affectation is also the co-extensivity of being with time such that 'time [is] itself *under the form of the pure horizon of Being*'. Michael O'Sullivan comments that Henry's purpose for bringing this co-extensivity to the forefront is because the self's auto-affectation must include 'both the individual's self-awareness and her being in time, [which] distances Henry from Husserl's use of this term which Derrida critiques for its forgetting of time' (Michael O'Sullivan, *Michel Henry: Incarnation, Barbarism and Belief: An Introduction to the Work of Michel Henry* [Bern: Peter Lang, 2006], 34n.6).

¹³⁷ Henry, *I Am the Truth*, 10.

¹³⁸ *Ibid.*, 29.

¹³⁹ *Ibid.*, 104.

¹⁴⁰ *Ibid.*, 107, emphasis mine.

external affecting or any relation with the world'.¹⁴¹ The Self affects itself within a '*pathētik*' auto-affection, which entails a kind of suffering of the flesh—but this suffering is not tragic, for it is the very fragility of Life itself which is the condition of being blessed: the joy¹⁴² experienced in the description, 'blessed are those that suffer'.¹⁴³

How does this differ in kind to Levinas' ethics of accusation, which in a real sense ultimately amounts to a self-accusation? First of all, there is no joy in Levinas, only obsession and insomnia.¹⁴⁴ Perhaps the greatest difference, again, is that while Levinas eschews an analogy of apperception with a transcendental ego (as found in Husserl and the early Levinas), Henry fully embraces the transcendental ego, but locates this within what he calls the Ipseity of the 'Arch-Son':

'Before Abraham was...Me, I am'. These words signify that no transcendental living 'me' is possible except within an Ipseity that it presupposes...—an Ipseity co-generated in the self-affection of absolute Life and whose phenomenological effectivity is precisely the Arch-Son. The First Born within Life and the First Living, the Arch-Son holds the essential Ipseity in which life's self-affection comes to be effective. But it is only within this Ipseity, and on its basis, that any other Self, and thus any transcendental ego such as ours, will be possible. Thus, the Arch-Son holds in his Ipseity the condition of all others sons.¹⁴⁵

The Arch-Son here acts not only as the transcendental condition for all other egos, much like Husserl's analogy of apperception, but here Henry

¹⁴¹ Ibid., 108.

¹⁴² '[I]n any effective living, for it to be so, to suffer and have joy are joint and contemporaneous modes of *pathētik* self-affection' (Ibid., 202).

¹⁴³ Ibid., 200–1: 'Suffering and Joy are linked by an essential affinity, which refers back to a primitive unity: the absolutely primitive original unity of Suffering and Rejoicing. Suffering appears to be the path that leads to enjoying, and thus its condition. It is only in experiencing oneself in the "suffer myself" that the life of the living Self comes into itself, such that suffering is veritably a path and a way. It is the test that life must pass so that, in and through that test, it attains itself and comes into itself in that coming that is the essence of any life, the process of its self-revelation.... "to suffer" dwells inside "to rejoice" as *that which leads to joy in as much as it dwells within it*, as its internal and permanent condition'.

¹⁴⁴ On the topic of insomnia as 'wakefulness' in Levinas, see Emmanuel Levinas, *Existence and Existents*, trans. Alphonso Lingis (The Hague: Martinus Nijhoff, 1978), 65–66; Levinas, *Totality and Infinity*, 258; Emmanuel Levinas, "God and Philosophy," in *The Levinas Reader*, ed. Seán Hand, trans. Richard A. Cohen and Alphonso Lingis (Oxford: Basil Blackwell, 1989), 169–71; Emmanuel Levinas and Richard Kearny, "Dialogue with Emmanuel Levinas," in *Face to Face with Levinas*, ed. Richard A. Cohen, SUNY Series in Philosophy (Albany, NY: State University of New York Press, 1986), 30.

¹⁴⁵ Henry, *I Am the Truth*, 110.

personalizes this aspect: the transcendental condition is not an impersonal concept, but is the ‘First Born within Life’, the one who said, ‘Before Abraham was, I am’. (Also of import is that Henry inserts the accusative ‘me’ in front of this ‘I am’ statement, indicating the regard the Father has for the Son.) ‘The Self can only enter into Life in the [Arch-Son’s] Ipseity and in the originary Self that belongs to him, ...by making of [each self] a “me”—*never come to him except by making of him a “me”*—this transcendental “me” that I myself am. “Before Abraham was [but this means ‘before any transcendental “me” whatever, whether it be Abraham’s or David’s’], I am.”¹⁴⁶ Henry goes on to say later that the Self must pronounce its own ‘me’ in the accusative and not the nominative case because of ‘the fact that it is engendered, not bringing itself into the condition that is its own, not experiencing itself as a Self, and not having this experience of self, except in the eternal self-affection of Life and of its original Ipseity’.¹⁴⁷ The self-experience of the self puts the self into the accusative ‘me’, which signifies that ‘*for each me, its ipseity does not come from it, but inversely, it comes from its ipseity*’.¹⁴⁸ This mirrors the order set out by Thomas that ‘Creation is like God, but God is never (positively) like creation’.¹⁴⁹ That is, every self comes from an Ipseity which is not its own. To reach itself, and to reach all others, the transcendental Self must pass ‘under the triumphal Arch, through this Door that is Christ in the parable of the sheep reported by John. It is in the very movement ... in which I reach myself and am given to myself through my transcendental birth, that I also reach, eventually, the other—since I identify myself with such movement and coincide with it’.¹⁵⁰ Heeding the astute warnings of theologians wary of

¹⁴⁶ Ibid., 111, the text in brackets here are Henry’s.

¹⁴⁷ Ibid., 135.

¹⁴⁸ Ibid., italics are Henry’s.

¹⁴⁹ *I Sent.* d. 35, q. 1. a. 4 ad 6; *De Pot.* 7. 7. 3 ad contra; *De Ver.* 2. 11 ad 1. Citing Lyttkens, *The Analogy Between God and the World*, 284.

¹⁵⁰ Henry, *I Am the Truth*, 255. Comparing Barth to Levinas Graham Ward says, ‘Levinas’s self recognises in the hungry and the destitute its own sonship, its own ipseity, its own state of being a hostage to God and responsible for others. And Levinas describes this condition in terms of recognising the Suffering Servant. Barth describes this condition in terms of recognising the death of Christ. But whereas for Levinas each is called to be the Suffering Servant pouring out her life for others, for Barth the believer only enters “the form of the death of Christ”. No human being approximates to the uniqueness of Christ, they only approximate to the “form” of such uniqueness. Another way of putting this would be to say that sonship is a mode of being, an existential condition for Levinas. The sonship of believers for Barth is living in the form of a mode of being, living as a figure of a person whose own

turning God into a merely transcendental concept,¹⁵¹ Henry, in his later *Words of Christ* ably transforms these insights into a God who speaks his word in Christ: ‘Life only becomes itself in the Self of the First Living Being whom it generates in itself as its Word [*Verbe*]. Each living being in turn only experiences itself in the Self of this Word [*Verbe*]. This is how the prologue puts it: “All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being” (John 1:3)’.¹⁵²

In order to become a self, a person that can offer itself to others, one must first ‘pass through Christ’, who is the ‘original’ person. Moreover, Christ also stands as the ‘I am’ prior to Abraham, arriving amidst Creation paradoxically therefore as the lamb slain before the foundation of the world (Rev 13:8), yet also as the one who enters this world through a virginal birth. Henry shows us that all personhood has its beginning in the Arch-Person of Christ; to be a self, to have one’s personhood¹⁵³ is always to have it more primarily in the first Self—what Henry calls *Ipseity*—who testifies to himself as the Truth. Levinas’ ethics fail not merely for its terrorizing violence, but primarily and precisely because (obsessive, slanderous) accusation is not primary: a self-gift that finds itself created within the gift of Creation is more original. Levinas says that responsibility to the other comes too late and thus we are always guilty,¹⁵⁴ but here he speaks all too soon because he misses that any (causal)

living is original and proper. There is, therefore, a secondariness, a level of mediation in Barth that is absent from Levinas’. Graham Ward, “The Revelation of the Holy Other as Wholly Other: Between Barth’s Theology of the Word and Levinas’s Philosophy of Saying,” in *Emmanuel Levinas: Critical Assessments of Leading Philosophers*, ed. Claire Katz and Lara Trout, vol. 3: Levinas and the Question of Religion (London and New York: Routledge, 2005), 328. At the same time, Levinas’s construction of the ‘third’ that he names ‘illeity’ is not a mediating, common ‘third’ but a rupturing, non-thematizing ‘thirdness’ which makes the other itself different. On illeity in Levinas, see Levinas, *Otherwise Than Being*, 147–50; for Ward’s commentary, see *Barth, Derrida and the Language of Theology*, 144–6.

¹⁵¹ ‘If God is thought within the human context as a lingual being, but initially apart from the word in which he is, the danger of a transcendental concept of God looms anew, that concept which led into the aporia of the unthinkability of God’. Eberhard Jüngel, *God as the Mystery of the World: On the Foundatin of Theology of the Crucified One in the Dispute Between Atheism and Theism*, trans. Darrell L. Guder (Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans, 1983), 230n.3. I do, however, reject Jüngel’s own rejection of the Dionysian and Thomist apophaticism aluded to here. Cf. Hart, *The Beauty Of The Infinite*, 248n.103, for Hart’s remarks against transcendentalism.

¹⁵² Michel Henry, *Words of Christ*, trans. Christina M. Gschwandtner (Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 2012), 110.

¹⁵³ For creatures, their status as person will only ever be ‘had’ by participation, and not by essence.

¹⁵⁴ ‘In an approach I am first a servant of a neighbor, already late and guilty for being late. I am as it were ordered from the outside, traumatically commanded, without interiorizing by

accusative is always first and foremost *given* within the dative of the vocative, of calling creation into existence, and of breathing life into the dust to make humanity. If obsessive accusation is always primary, then there would be no way to know otherwise, which is why the kind of ‘accusative’-accusation Levinas commands can only be intelligible if there is a primary gift, and also if the accusative is reconfigured along more coherent ‘causal’ trajectories involving creation. True, such a reconfiguration would not bear much resemblance to Levinas any longer, but his traumatic and torturous ethics exact a high price. And, because Levinas wants to escape being, it is difficult to see how one can take seriously his pronouncements concerning the goodness of creation, let alone the fact that it is difficult to know *who* is accusing me because of the feature-less, character-less anonymity of the Other within his thought.

Names and naming are so important within the Jewish and Christian traditions for this reason: they signify a primary mystery whose ineffability is still one we may encounter. The prior testimony to the truth, to the name of God, is also what makes possible the beginning of the response of the human person, and also to God. To quote Rosenzweig one more time, commenting upon God’s call to Adam in the Garden: ‘To God’s question: “Where are you?” the man still remained a You, as a defiant, obstinate Self; when called by name twice, with the strongest fixity of purpose to which one cannot remain deaf, the man totally open, totally unfounded, totally read, totally—soul, now answers: “I am here.”’¹⁵⁵ The true ‘I am’ as revealed in the Person of Jesus Christ—who, as the Adam now becomes first—stood before Pilate in accusation. The slander directed at him by the crowd, and the confrontation with Pilate himself looks different when we realize that in their (diabolical) accusation, this very person was (and is) their judge and their creator. In the person of Christ, slander ends and redemption begins, because when Christ himself stands accused it means that Christ is the maker and cause of the same

representation and concepts the authority that commands me’ (Levinas, *Otherwise Than Being*, 87). See also Levinas, “Substitution,” 93.

¹⁵⁵ Rosenzweig, *The Star of Redemption*, 190.

forces that crucified him—and yet he forgives them. Perhaps this is why after the jeremiad of the Grand Inquisitor, Christ simply kisses him on the cheek.¹⁵⁶

In the following chapter, I explore the personal distance that has unfolded through the analysis of this chapter. If the preceding standpoint of Levinas (and along with him Modern and Post-Modern thought which tends to prioritize becoming over being, the flux over any kind of stability) assumes a radical heterogeneity that arises from an ontological equivocality, then what follows will not be its reactionary opposite—that of univocity—but of the created distance manifest in the person under the rubric of analogy.

¹⁵⁶ Fyodor Dostoevsky, *The Karamazov Brothers*, trans. Ignat Avsey, Oxford World's Classics (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2008), 329.

PART II: Persons, Analogically

CHAPTER 4
ARRIVING AT THE PERSON'S ARRIVAL:
RESOLUTIO AND RECAPITULATION

From Creation, we had sought the path to Revelation.

—Franz
Rosenzweig¹

The starting point of metaphysics is so charged with life that it can never be left behind, but, like a fruitful seed, it contains, and has the power to unfold out of itself, the whole of metaphysics. Any extension of the initial problem is always at the same time an intensification of the original question that, rather than developing away from the origin, develops into it and thus becomes ever more original.

—Hans Urs von Balthasar²

In the preceding chapter, we saw the consequences of the ethics of radical heterogeneity from the standpoint of an originary accusation as embodied in the work of Emmanuel Levinas. This standpoint worked from a set of assumptions which, to our mind, is untenable. The set of assumptions seems to be as follows: 1) all phenomenological intentionality must be rejected because it 'totalizes' the other into itself in an Hegelian fashion; 2) typical notions of Being as such also lie within this totalizing gaze and therefore any ethics of the self must be constituted from the 'hither side' of being (i.e., *otherwise than, beyond, etc.*) in the form of a un-declinable accusation which puts the violent 'I' into not a nominative form, but its accusative form of 'me'; 3) therefore, all selves are constituted asymmetrically in such an Ur-alterity that rejects all forms of analogy, especially that of the analogy of apperception of Husserl's transcendental ego, which also falls within the same narrative that everything within 'Being' is totalizing. The only option that Levinas is left with is one of extreme dialectics and rupture. In this sense, the violent rhetoric found in Levinas' writings follows naturally.

¹ Rosenzweig, *The Star of Redemption*, 202–3. 'Von der Schöpfung hatten wir den Weg zur Offenbarung gesucht' (Franz Rosenzweig, *Der Stern Der Erlösung* [Frankfurt am Main: Suhrkamp, 1990], 209). According to Michael Mack's slightly modified translation in *German Idealism and the Jew*, 121.

² Balthasar, *Theo-Logic*, 2000, I:25.

But the structure of being does not have to be this way, all protestations of the Heideggerian narrative of metaphysics to the contrary.³ For example, knowing other things and other persons within the act of being need not be violent at all, but can exhibit a self-giving aspect. This is indeed how the classical definition of truth and knowing understands it, as exemplified by Thomas Aquinas. Lorenz Puntel remarks in response to Levinas, ‘Because knowledge has to do with truth, its essential point is precisely not the assimilation of things, of “the other,” *to the subject*; rather, it is the diametrically opposite: the assimilation of the knower to what is known’.⁴ It seems like most of the violence that Levinas sees in classical accounts of ontology is reduced to this simple misunderstanding.

We see this misconstrual most clearly in how Levinas understands ‘Western philosophy’ where the entirety of the tradition is re-read through the idealism of Berkeley and most notably the Husserlian/Heideggerian understanding of Being. His two main texts, *Totality and Infinity* as well as *Otherwise than Being*, state his historiography clearly. The latter text, Levinas describes *logos* within what he calls an ‘amphibology’, which means that ‘identification at any level implies the temporalization of the lived, essence’.⁵ ‘Essence’, as Levinas defines it, ‘is the very fact that there is a theme, exhibition, *doxa* or *logos*, and thus truth’.⁶ What this means is that, within this space of identification, ‘*to be*’ is the nominalizing force which not only temporalizes everything, but it also ‘designates’ all entities within the ‘Said’ of Being, thus preventing them from ‘resounding’. ‘The birthplace of ontology’, Levinas says, ‘is in the said. Ontology is stated in the amphibology of being and entities’.⁷ Accordingly, in *Totality and Infinity*, Levinas singles out ‘mediation’ (‘characteristic of Western philosophy’) and phenomenological mediation, ‘where the “ontological imperialism” is yet

³ For an insightful counter-narrative to Heidegger’s, see Stanley Rosen, *The Question of Being: A Reversal of Heidegger* (New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 1993).

⁴ Puntel, *Being and God*, 287, emphasis in original. Thomas states in *De Ver.*, q. 1, a. 1: “True expresses the correspondence between being and the knowing power, for all knowing comes about through the assimilation of the knower to the thing known.” This is restated in *ST*, I, q. 16, a. 2.

⁵ Levinas, *Otherwise Than Being*, 42.

⁶ *Ibid.*, 39.

⁷ *Ibid.*, 42.

more visible'.⁸ This is the prioritization of Being over existents found in Husserl and Heidegger: 'To affirm the priority of *Being* over *existents* is to already decide the essence of philosophy; it is to subordinate the relation with *someone*, who is an existent, (the ethical relation) to a relation with the *Being of existents*, which, impersonal, permits the apprehension, the domination of existents (a relationship of knowing), subordinates justice to freedom'. Levinas thus concludes that this primacy of freedom over ethics 'marks the direction of and defines the whole of Western philosophy'.⁹

On the contrary, according to Thomas' vision of metaphysical adequation, the assimilation of the knower to the things known *is* in a sense a 'passive' assimilation, and not at all as the actively 'intentional' act which 'totalizes' all things unto itself.¹⁰ This is because Thomas has such a strong tendency to always emphasize reality, not statically, but as *esse*, the verb of being in its act.¹¹ In this sense, as creatures we only have our knowledge as it 'is received from things, and, by its nature, comes after them'.¹² Oliva Blanchette remarks that there is some wisdom in maintaining the 'traditional description of truth as an adequation of intelligence to [a] thing rather than as a static conformity between subject and object. Object suggests an opposition that cannot be overcome, a gap that cannot be bridged, which clearly is not the case where there is truth. Thing, which still can be opposed to intelligence, as that which takes its stand in being rather than just in intelligence, is not defined by this opposition. It is defined rather by what it is as it stands in being and as it *presents itself* to be represented, as that with which representation has to compose in the exercise of judgment'.¹³ Knowledge and truth for Levinas

⁸ Levinas, *Totality and Infinity*, 44.

⁹ *Ibid.*, 45.

¹⁰ 'Knowledge received from things known consists in a passive assimilation by which the knower is assimilated to objects of knowledge previously existing' (*De Ver.*, q. 2, a. 8 ad 2). The issue in this question in *De Ver.* concerns itself with whether or not God knows non-beings. God is infinitely unique in this case because, likened to that of an artist, God is also the cause of all knowledge as the artist is to his or her artwork; whereas we only know things after they already exist. This echoes the same logic of the 'passive nominative' that Rosenzweig discusses when he comments upon "the" heavens and "the" earth' (Rosenzweig, *The Star of Redemption*, 164).

¹¹ Rocca, *Speaking the Incomprehensible God*, 159–64 at 164.

¹² *De Ver.*, q. 2, a. 8.

¹³ Oliva Blanchette, *Philosophy of Being: A Reconstructive Essay in Metaphysics* (Washington, D. C.: The Catholic University of America Press, 2003), 202, emphasis mine.

exhibits this oppositional subject-object dichotomy¹⁴ such that the ‘gap’ about which Blanchette speaks is always a distance of violence instead of the distance crossed in giving one’s own intellect over to the thing as it presents itself in an act of judgment. As Blanchette concludes, ‘There is no gap to bridge between intelligence and being. There is simply knowing of being to begin with. Intelligence is already one with being from the very beginning of reflection and, as finite or limited in its understanding, it has only to make itself adequate to the being with which it is somehow one’.¹⁵ If the latter half of the previous chapter explored how, in a sense, Being has no intrinsic Goodness for Levinas, we now also can see that neither does Levinas have the philosophical resources to be able to judge it to be True, either. It is not so much that Truth is a correspondence to us as it ‘is that which *we* must correspond to in speaking’.¹⁶ Truth, therefore, has a relational, and even analogical character.¹⁷

In order to understand the Goodness and Truth of Being, however, one must have an understanding that these differences are already contained *within* Being. ‘Being actually contains its differences’, Blanchette says, ‘and cannot be known fully apart from these differences’.¹⁸ This does not mean one will ever know Being fully, but only through a clarification by way of the differences within Being.¹⁹ Yet, Levinas’ so-called alterity is one that assumes

¹⁴ Zaborowski, *Robert Spaemann’s Philosophy of the Human Person*, 216–17: “Spaemann criticizes the supposition that the epiphany of the ‘other’ comes from ‘beyond Being’; for ‘Levinas understands “being” in a modern sense as objectification’. In contrast to Levinas, Spaemann retrieves what he considers a more fundamental notion of Being, one which goes beyond the distinction between the subjective and the objective and so overcomes the modern dialectic of spirit and nature.”

¹⁵ Blanchette, *Philosophy of Being*, 76.

¹⁶ *Ibid.*, 54, emphasis mine.

¹⁷ On Thomas’ conception of truth as relational in contrast to that of Augustine’s (“that which is”) and Philip the Chancellor’s (negative) conceptions of truth, see Jan A. Aertsen, *Medieval Philosophy and the Transcendentals: The Case of Thomas Aquinas*, Studien Und Texte Zur Geistesgeschichte Des Mittelalters 52 (Leiden: E.J. Brill, 1996), 253–6. For an account of truth as analogical, see Balthasar, *Theo-Logic*, I. Truth of the World; Hans Boersma, ‘Analogy of Truth: The Sacramental Epistemology of Nouvelle Théologie’, in *Ressourcement: A Moment for Renewal in Twentieth-Century Catholic Theology* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2012), 157–71.

¹⁸ Blanchette, *Philosophy of Being*, 110. Cf. Te Velde, *Participation and Substantiality in Thomas Aquinas*, 206.

¹⁹ Such an understanding paves the way for the possibility of all scientific endeavours (cf. *ibid.*, 141); however, it is another question as to just *how* such an investigation is pursued, viz., under the aegis of controlling nature on the one hand, or of discovering being’s differences via a respectful scientific stewardship on the other.

that Being possesses no intrinsic difference within itself, much like the same way that Francisco Suárez defines being as that abstracted from all difference, omitting all reference to actuality (and thus serves as one of the originators of modern essentialism).²⁰ Thus, Levinas has to regard all possibility of difference as ‘otherwise’ than Being, ‘beyond essence’, but in so doing, and in so removing any potential for analogy, the other ends up becoming the most self-same, univocal concept of all, always doing the same thing: accusing, obsessing, causing trauma, in an endless repetition of the same, much like the boring and monotonous cottage industry of film horror sequels. Despite all of the best intentions to maintain alterity, it is here that supposedly equivocal basis is truly seen for what it is: a metaphysical univocity. Without Being’s fecundity displayed in all its difference, it only makes sense that Levinas’ ‘Other’ remains featureless and anonymous.

How then can one speak of the manifold difference *of* Being? As the previous chapter showed through the various proposals of Franz Rosenzweig’s emphasis on the giftedness of creation (who, along with the early Derrida, identified this gift with the ‘dative’ case) and Michel Henry’s focus upon the Arch-Son whose Ipseity holds ‘the condition of all other sons’,²¹ the notion of the ‘accusative’ was expanded and redefined—albeit inchoately—to include both a new understanding of a causal relationship to the other as well as an affirmation of the difference of the other as contained within a higher ‘Arch-Person’. It is this Arch-Person who acted as the primary analogate for the possibility of all other persons. Thus, to speak of Being’s difference with the utmost of respect to its own dignity—that is, in order to *adequate* one’s own intellect to the Goodness, Truth, and Beauty of Being—necessarily involves the use of analogy, not only in reference to Being *qua* Being, but also in speaking about Persons.

In this chapter I will expand upon these insights by exploring the ways in which analogous speech is the only appropriate way to refer to persons, which

²⁰ Francisco Suárez, *Disputationes Metaphysicae* (Hildesheim: Olms, 1965), II, 4. See Blanchette, *Philosophy of Being*, 108–9. For an opposing view which defends Suárez against charges of being an ‘essentialist’, see Jose Pereira, *Suárez: Between Scholasticism and Modernity* (Milwaukee, WI: Marquette University Press, 2007), 97–139, esp. 103–5, 119–20.

²¹ Henry, *I Am the Truth*, 110.

will be unfolded in three sections. The first attempts to answer the question, ‘Why the person, and how is it “picked out” ’? This is accomplished through an act of metaphysical *resolutio*, which is the following of the path which culminates in the affirmation the the human person is the primary analogate of being. The second part examines the problem of the person itself as a perfection term. At issue is whether or not the person is itself sufficient alongside the divine unity of other well-known perfection terms such as ‘goodness’, ‘one’, ‘wise’, ‘truth’, etc. The third and final section of this chapter completes the metaphysical path by moving beyond the transcendental affirmation to the *transcendent* itself in the arrival of the first person who comes last: Jesus Christ, the one who recapitulates the world and person in himself in his life, death, and resurrection.

a. *Resolutio, or Beginning at the End*

The previous chapters have worked under the presumption of the person as the causal and analogical ‘key’ to untangling the issues that surrounded accusation, the accusative, and the person’s status as ‘accused’ within the created order. But, how does one *arrive* at this presumption? Asked in another way: how does the person arrive?²² As will become clear, this one question asked in two distinctly different ways is an integral part of the way one articulates the order of human and divine things. For now, it suffices to express the questions of arrival in a way that mirrors, although is not identical to, the impulse behind Thomas Aquinas’ description of knowledge of God. He

²² This question shares a common ancestor with a similar question asked regarding ontological origins under the heading of “arrival of the fittest” vs. the “survival of the fittest” in Cunningham, *Darwin’s Pious Idea*, 108–17. Also relevant here is the concept of ‘emergent personhood’ as developed along the lines of the critical realistic account of personhood in Smith, *What Is a Person?*, 25–89. ‘Human persons are *proactively*—not responsively—emergent realities. Persons are not subsequent products of purely physical processes, the final outcomes of a temporal series of events governed by other agents at the end of which persons emerge. To the contrary, ontologically, personhood adheres in the human from the start—even if in only the most nascent, densely compacted form possible—acting as the causal agent of its own development’ (Ibid., 87-8, emphasis in original). That is, persons are proactively emergent in that not only do they ‘emerge’ from the physical, chemical, and biologically lower levels and capacities (42-49), but as emergent, they are ‘centers’ of self-transcendence (Ibid., 61-3) and thus enact their own downward causality on these capacities in their freedom as persons.

says that we know at least in a confused and distorted way that God exists, but we do not absolutely know, ‘just as to know that someone is approaching is not the same as to know that Peter is approaching, even though it is Peter who is approaching’.²³ One can know *that* God exists, but outside of revelation, one will not be able to discern just *what* kind of God this is, that is, just *who* this God is. We can never know the essence of God perfectly, but we can only know God from God’s effects, whether this knowledge is by means of nature or by way of grace.²⁴ Throughout the remainder of this chapter, the relationship between theology and philosophy, while distinct, will be treated in a mutual way; that is, the philosophical discussion will assume a theological end, while the theological will, in turn, rely on philosophical assumptions not as one over against the other, but in the relationship of water turned into wine, of grace assuming and perfecting nature.²⁵

What effects, then, are ‘available’ (so to speak) for picking out as fitting analogates? Thomas selects certain transcendentals such as being, one, truth, goodness, beauty, and otherness (*aliquid*),²⁶ which cannot be understood outside of the long tradition of divine naming that he inherits from Dionysius.²⁷ In this vein, W. Norris Clarke speaks about choosing ‘stretch

²³ *ST*, I, q. 2, a. 1 ad 1.

²⁴ This is first stated in *ST*, I, q. 1, a. 7 obj 1 in reference to John Damascene, *De Fide Orth.* i, iv: ‘It is impossible to define the essence of God’. Thomas clarifies this in regard to knowing God from God’s effects in *ST*, I, q. 1, a. 7 ad 1; q. 2, a. 1 corpus; q. 2, a. 2 ad 3, etc; *ScG*, III, cc. 51–6.

²⁵ See *ST*, I, q. 1, a. 8 ad 2; q. 2, a. 2 ad 1.

²⁶ See Aertsen, *Medieval Philosophy and the Transcendentals*. The exception to Aertsen’s case is beauty (*ibid.*, 335–59). On this see Cunningham, *Genealogy of Nihilism*, 192–7 and the important footnote with sources on this debate on p. 214n.137. Importantly, see Mark D. Jordan, “The Evidence of the Transcendentals and the Place of Beauty in Thomas Aquinas,” *International Philosophical Quarterly* 29, no. 4 (1989): 393–407 at 403 where Jordan points out that Thomas maintains participatory language to speak about beauty in the same way that he does other transcendentals. For two other accounts of beauty as possessing an analogous, participatory structure, see Hart, *The Beauty Of The Infinite*; John R. Betz, “Beyond the Sublime: The Aesthetics of the Analogy of Being (Part One),” *Modern Theology* 21, no. 3 (2005): 367–411; John R. Betz, “Beyond the Sublime: The Aesthetics of the Analogy of Being (Part Two),” *Modern Theology* 22, no. 1 (2006): 1–50. On “aliquid” in Aquinas, see Philipp W. Rosemann, *Omne ens est aliquid: Introduction a la lecture du “système” philosophique de saint Thomas d’Aquin* (Leuven: Peeters, 1996).

²⁷ Likewise, Rudi A. Te Velde, *Aquinas on God: The “Divine Science” of the Summa Theologiae*, Ashgate Studies in the History of Philosophical Theology (Aldershot: Ashgate, 2006), 102: “Analogy should not be treated in isolation from the whole of the analysis of divine names.” Specifically, Te Velde is referring to aa. 5–6 of *ST* I, q. 13, which itself is a consideration of the divine names (*divinorum nominum*). For an account of Thomas’ indebtedness to Dionysius, see O’Rourke, *Pseudo-Dionysius and the Metaphysics of Aquinas*.

terms' and putting them through a 'stretch' procedure in order to discern whether or not they may be fittingly used, that is, 'open' enough.²⁸ It is important to use wisdom in judgment in determining the term's 'proper' from its 'abusive' extension (in the sense of the Cajetan's use of *abusio*, not to be confused with typical English connotations of abuse).²⁹ Such prudent judgment includes the recognition that a term's original meaning and etymology are not always key to its *ratio* of understanding.³⁰ Instead, sometimes the excellence of a term, despite its origin, must be considered.³¹ Clarke has two ways of speaking about the malleability of these terms. One way is to indicate the upper and lower limits of these expansive terms, those terms 'having a *floor but no ceiling*: intellectual knowing, love, life, joy, etc'. and those terms 'having *neither ceiling nor floor*: the all-pervasive "transcendental properties" applicable across all levels of being, such as being, activity, unity, power, intelligibility, goodness (in the widest sense)'.³² Elsewhere, Clarke delineates these two types as 'relatively transcendental properties' and 'absolutely transcendental properties', respectively. The relatively transcendental properties are those which Clarke describes as 'so purely positive in meaning

²⁸ W. Norris Clarke, *The Philosophical Approach to God: A Contemporary Neo-Thomist Perspective* (Winston-Salem: Wake Forest University Press, 1979), 52–6; idem, *The One and the Many: A Contemporary Thomistic Metaphysics* (Notre Dame, IN: University of Notre Dame Press, 2001), 44. For a helpful commentary on Clarke's work on analogy, see Philip A. Rolnick, *Analogical Possibilities: How Words Refer to God*, American Academy of Religion Academy Series 81 (Atlanta, GA: Scholars Press, 1993), 13–94, here on "stretch terms", 75–82. Lyttkens says that the 'concept must be regarded as an "open" concept' (Lyttkens, *The Analogy Between God and the World*, 348, 379).

²⁹ Joshua P. Hochschild, *The Semantics of Analogy: Rereading Cajetan's De Nominum Analogia* (Notre Dame, IN: University of Notre Dame Press, 2010), 123.

³⁰ Hochschild speaks in a similar way to Clarke: 'Terms become analogical by a process of extension; they are extended from one, original signification to cover another, new signification. Some of these extensions are more fitting than others. What determines the fittingness or "propriety" of such an extension is not only the original meaning of the term, or its etymology, but the similarity of what is signified in what is originally denominated by the term to what is signified in that which the term is *stretched* to denominate' (ibid., 124, emphasis mine).

³¹ *ST*, I, q. 29, a. 3 ad 2.

³² W. Norris Clarke, "Analogy and the Meaningfulness of Language About God," in *Explorations in Metaphysics: Being—God—Person* (Notre Dame, IN: University of Notre Dame Press, 1994), 132. While the two kinds of terms mentioned here have more ontological and 'active' connections, Clarke precedes these with two other terms possessing a more 'ontic' flavour, but just as important in their own right: '(1) those having a *ceiling but no floor* (no lower limit) in their application: terms like physico-chemical activity, whose upper limit is biological activity, or perhaps consciousness, but that extend downward to unknown depths of matter still hidden from us and perhaps very strange indeed compared with what we know; (2) those having both a *floor and a ceiling*, say, biological activity, or sense knowledge, limited by the non-living or unconscious below and intellectual knowledge above' (ibid.).

and so demanding of our unqualified value-approval that, even though they are not co-extensive with all being, any being higher than the level at which they first appear must be judged to possess them—hence *a fortiori* the highest being—under pain of being less perfect than the being we already know, particularly ourselves'.³³ To the above-mentioned earlier list of knowledge, love, life, and joy, Clarke here adds freedom and 'personality, at least as understood in Western cultures'.³⁴ The absolutely transcendental properties are 'those attributes whose meaning is so closely linked with the meaning and intelligibility of being itself that no real being is conceivable which could lack them and still remain intelligible'.³⁵ For our purposes, it seems that the notion of 'person' fits within Clarke's category of 'relatively transcendental properties'. It would seem, however, that considering the above-considered priority of the person in our investigation, that this may pose a problem for my thesis. How can a 'relative' property have 'absolute' significance?

This question becomes all the more pressing with the recognition that Thomas has a priority of Being (*ens*) in his list of the transcendentals. Jan Aertsen emphasizes this priority: 'Being, "that which is," is the Archimedean point of Thomas's thought'.³⁶ Being retains a certain priority because of the fact that that all other conceptions resolve toward Being (*ens*).³⁷ Thus, to even ask the question, 'What is Truth?' for Aquinas, first requires the acknowledgment that what we first conceive of is Being, yet Being is not

³³ Clarke, *The Philosophical Approach to God*, 57.

³⁴ Ibid. Clarke has in mind here the lack of a 'substantial' self as implied in the person-less philosophy of Buddhism, which tends to reduce everything to its relations. On this see Clarke, *Person and Being*, 17, 58–60, which also applies to existentialist-phenomenologist accounts inspired by Nietzsche such as Heidegger, et al. Instead, for Clarke, to be is to be a 'dyadic' substance-in-relation (ibid., 15). See a full account of this in W. Norris Clarke, "To Be Is To Be Substance-in-Relation," in *Explorations in Metaphysics: Being—God—Person* (Notre Dame, IN: University of Notre Dame Press, 1994), 102–22. For an account which emphasizes relationality as more constitutive (but not at the expense of substantiality, but rather because of the nature of substance), see Adrian Pabst, *Metaphysics: The Creation of Hierarchy* (Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 2012). Christian Smith argues for a more mutually reciprocal account, stating that 'Relations need substances and substances need relations'. Smith, *What Is a Person?*, 232, more generally 230–3. For a brief and helpful account that locates 'personality' not at the level of the person, but at the level of the 'soul' as 'something attributable to the "person,"' see Rowan Williams, "'Person' and 'Personality' in Christology," *The Downside Review* 94, no. 317 (October 1976): 253–60, here at 257, emphasis in original.

³⁵ Clarke, *The Philosophical Approach to God*, 57.

³⁶ Aertsen, *Medieval Philosophy and the Transcendentals*, 84.

³⁷ *De Ver.*, q. 1, a. 1.

contained within a genus, that is, Being is not *itself* a category of thought. Rather, ‘As what falls first in the understanding, being is that in the light of which everything is understood’.³⁸ Establishing the priority of Being (*ens*), Thomas says that ‘what *the true* adds to being [is], namely, the conformity or equation of thing and intellect’.³⁹ We have these other predicates such as True, Good, One, Beauty, otherness (*aliquid*) that we first recognize when we call something ‘true’, ‘good’, etc., but they all are referred to, and thus ‘resolve’ in the process of resolution (*resolutio*) to Being (*ens*). According to Thomas, this is exactly what ‘metaphysics’ is, in that movement ‘after’ (μετά) physics,⁴⁰ or as he puts it in the prologue to his commentary on Aristotle’s *Metaphysics*, ‘inasmuch as it considers being and what follows upon it—for these transphysical things are discovered in the process of resolution (*in via resolutionis*) as the more common after the less common’.⁴¹

The method of *resolutio*, ‘[t]he “way of resolution” is always directed to a terminus which in a certain respect is first’.⁴² Being is what falls first in the intellect, but *arriving* at Being is that which comes last in this process. The process begins in the apprehension of physical things in their composition as possessed within a unitary whole which is most common to them, reduced to the most simple principles.⁴³ In his commentary on Boethius’ *De Trinitate*, Thomas describes the *via resolutionis* in two ways. The first likens the relationship of physics to divine science as to that of ‘reason’ to the ‘intellect’, the latter of which is that ‘non-discursive mode of knowing proper to the immaterial substances’.⁴⁴ Reason participates in the intellectual process in that the intellect both begins and serves as the end of the rational process, according to the way of composition or discovery (*secundum viam compositionis vel inventionis*), ‘insofar as reason gathers one simple truth from

³⁸ Blanchette, *Philosophy of Being*, 72.

³⁹ *De Ver.*, q. 1, a. 1.

⁴⁰ Blanchette, *Philosophy of Being*, 7–8.

⁴¹ Aertsen’s translation in Jan A. Aertsen, “Method and Metaphysics: The ‘via Resolutionis’ in Thomas Aquinas,” *The New Scholasticism* 63, no. 4 (1989): 405–18 at 406.

⁴² *Ibid.*, 408.

⁴³ Te Velde, *Aquinas on God*, 55.

⁴⁴ Here I am following the helpful work of Aertsen, “Method and Metaphysics,” 410–11. See also the summary in Aertsen, *Medieval Philosophy and the Transcendentals*, 133–35, 157. Aertsen is commenting on *In Boethii De trinitate* 6, 1, 211, 11. 15–19. Cf. *De Ver.*, q. 15, a. 1.

many things'.⁴⁵ Thomas says that 'according to the process of resolution, all consideration of reason in all the sciences terminates in the knowledge of divine science'.⁴⁶ The progression of reason in the sciences to its terminus in the intellectual knowledge of the divine science can take place on two levels, *secundum rationem* and *secundum rem*. The first,⁴⁷ *secundum rationem* is the process described above from *De Veritate* I, 1 where one proceeds according to the *intrinsic* causes of a thing, leading back to the most universal, that of Being (the opposite being by composition where one attains to the particular via the universal). The second, *secundem rem*, proceeds according to a demonstration 'made through *extrinsic* causes or effects by composition when we go from causes to effects, by resolution when we proceed from effects to causes. The ultimate term of this resolution is attained when man arrives at the highest causes, which are the immaterial substances'.⁴⁸ Both of these resolutions have an 'intellectual' end in divine science which treats of both kinds of intrinsic and external causes. On the one hand, we have the intrinsic resolution to Being (*secundum rationem*), and on the other the cause of Being itself (*secundum rem*). As Aertsen notes, there is an intrinsic connection between these two resolutions: 'The reduction terminating in being, in that which is transcendental, goes together with the reduction terminating in the transcendent cause'.⁴⁹ Thomas elaborates on this connection in a brief history on the question of being given in *ST* I, q. 44, a. 2: 'Finally some thinkers advanced further and raised themselves to the consideration of being as being. And they assigned a cause to things, not only according as they are *these* or *such*, but according as they are *beings*'.⁵⁰

Keeping the relationship of these two ways of resolution both distinct and rightly ordered is not only crucial to properly understanding the logic of arrival, but also important in order to avoid error. One error to avoid is the conflation of the two orders, an error which Thomas attributes to the

⁴⁵ Aertsen, "Method and Metaphysics," 410.

⁴⁶ In *Boethii De trinitate* 6, 1, 212, 11. 1-2. As quoted in Aertsen, 'Method and Metaphysics', 410.

⁴⁷ Although, Thomas treats them in the reverse order as I do here.

⁴⁸ Aertsen, "Method and Metaphysics," 411, emphasis mine.

⁴⁹ *Ibid.*, 416.

⁵⁰ For a helpful commentary on this article of Thomas', see Te Velde, *Aquinas on God*, 132–8.

‘Platonists’. The Platonists confuse the predication of the universal with many things—an appropriate activity—with the predication of a cause from an effect,⁵¹ which is impossible, for the very reason that a cause is not directly available to reason, but only is apprehended later through the way of resolution. Thomas makes a distinction between the ‘first in commonness’ and the ‘first in causality’. The ‘first in commonness’ is first apprehended as transcendental by the intellect, whereas the ‘first in causality’ is the *transcendent* God, and therefore not directly accessible. ‘The first in the order of our intellectual knowledge is not transcendent, but transcendental’.⁵² It is important to remember that there is no identity between these two ‘ways’, but a relation of causality: God is the cause of Being.⁵³ For Thomas, ‘the first cause of things is not the first known, but the final end of the human desire to know’.⁵⁴

That which is arrived at ‘last’ in the resolution is connected to the first in a circular movement. ‘This resolution has a “reflexive” structure in the sense that “that which was the first becomes the last.”’⁵⁵ Likewise, this is only possible because ‘the last has become the first’, or as Thomas describes it, it is only natural to proceed ‘from the sensible to the intelligible, from the effects to the causes, and from that which is later to the first’.⁵⁶ The path of the *resolutio* leads to a real change in ‘relationship of thought to the object, constitutive of a science, thus a change in the perspective from which reality is considered in a certain science.’⁵⁷ Again, we see the pattern of truth as that of the adequation of the intellect *towards* the object; the way of resolution in metaphysics is one of the key ways in which one’s intellect apprehends not only the truth of Being, but the truth of its created reality by its cause, the God who creates out of nothing.

⁵¹ *Commentary on the Metaphysics of Aristotle*, trans. John P. Rowan (Chicago, IL: Henry Regnery Co., 1961), X, 3.1964 (hereafter *In Meta.*). Thomas also notes that Plato errors in a similar way in conflating the order of knowledge with the separable forms (*ST*, I, q. 84, a. 1).

⁵² Aertsen, *Medieval Philosophy and the Transcendentals*, 168.

⁵³ *Ibid.*, 393–94.

⁵⁴ Aertsen, “Method and Metaphysics,” 416. Aertsen contrasts Thomas with Bonaventure for whom “the most pure being, the divine being, is the first known” (*ibid.*).

⁵⁵ *Ibid.*, 417.

⁵⁶ *In I Sent.* 17, 1, 4. As quoted in *Ibid.*

⁵⁷ Te Velde, *Aquinas on God*, 55.

Thus far, however, the *via resolutionis* has only given us those ‘absolutely transcendental properties’ about which Clarke spoke. The names such as true, good, one, being, etc., have a ‘transgeneric’ sense, common to all reality.⁵⁸ Personality, or rather, that contained in the analogical, ‘transcendental’ reality of the person does not exist in the same way that these ‘absolute transcendental properties’ exist. While it may have no ‘ceiling’, it does, however, have a ‘floor’, as Clarke puts it. More precisely, all created reality does not exist and have goodness, truth, beauty in the same way that a person does; all being does not shine forth its aspect of truth such that all of Being also has an ‘aspect’ of personhood. That is, all of Being is not, following Aquinas and Boethius, an ‘individual substance of a rational nature’ (*naturæ rationalis individua substantia*).⁵⁹ ‘For’, as Boethius says, ‘if every nature has person, the difference between nature and person is a hard knot to unravel’.⁶⁰ It is clear that the Person enjoys a privileged place in Being, but Persons do not share the same status as ‘absolute’ due to the fact that the very definition of a Person (whether Boethian/Aquinan or even more recent personalist accounts) implies distinction,⁶¹ which thus assumes being and is something that not only exists *within* being but is that existent substance who *has* its own being.⁶² Nor

⁵⁸ *Ibid.*, 110.

⁵⁹ *Contra Eutychem*, ch. 3 in Boethius, *The Theological Tractates*, trans. H. F. Stewart, E. K. Rand, and S. J. Tester, Loeb Classical Library (Cambridge, MA and London: Harvard University Press, 1973), 84–5. For Aquinas, see *ST*, I, q. 29, a. 1; *De Pot.*, q. 9, a. 4. Aquinas slightly modifies the formula to say ‘that which subsists in an intellectual nature’ (*subsistens in natura intellectuali*) in *Ibid.*, q. 9, a. 3 ad 1. However, the sense remains the same, as subsistence refers to what exists in itself and not another, and thus for Aquinas ‘person’ indicates the same reality (*ST*, I, q. 29, a. 2 ad 2) considered under the genus of rational substances (*ST*, I, q. 29, a. 2; *De Pot.*, q. 9, a. 2). Lastly, Aquinas also accepts ‘hypostasis of rational nature’ as equivalent (*Ibid.*, q. 9, a. 2 ad 7). For an account of Thomas’ taking up of Boethius’ definition, see Horst Seidl, “The Concept of Person in St. Thomas Aquinas: A Contribution to Recent Discussion,” *The Thomist* 51 (1987): 435–60 at 435–40.

⁶⁰ Boethius, *The Theological Tractates*, 82–3.

⁶¹ ‘[T]he meaning (*ratio*) of person implies distinction in general and hence is abstracted (*abstrahere*) from every mode of distinction’, Thomas Aquinas, *Scriptum super libros Sententiarum* I, d. 25, q. 1, a. 2 ad 5 as cited in Rocca, *Speaking the Incomprehensible God*, 147.

⁶² On the logic of ‘having’ as most particular to human persons who have their own being, see Mary L. O’Hara, *The Logic of Human Personality: An Onto-Logical Account* (Amherst, NY: Humanity Books, 1998), 127–34; Hans Urs von Balthasar, *Cosmic Liturgy: The Universe According to Maximus the Confessor*, trans. Brian E. Daley, SJ (San Francisco, CA: Ignatius Press, 2003), 223. Commenting on Robert Spaemann’s work, Holger Zaborowski remarks, ‘the path of the reconstruction of a realistic understanding of Being by means of a recollection of what Spaemann considers self-evident—that is, the experience that reality is ultimately not an endless stream of becoming, but a *mixtum compositum* of substantial Being and becoming.

is the person merely a collective bundle or ‘succession of experiences but that which (successively) has them. And this is no other than what is meant by substance’.⁶³ How then, can that which has a ‘floor’ and not exist ‘everywhere’ be of equal importance?

Presently, there does not seem to be a way to make personhood more ‘general’ to fit the measure of ‘absolute’ in the same way that being and the other transcendentals are absolute. Nor would one want this, either, for the very nature of persons are their distinct incommunicability *as persons*. To reduce persons to a more ‘general’ understanding would in fact do away with persons altogether. Moreover, Rude Te Velde has posed a special challenge to any account of analogical naming that attempts to ‘read off’ some particular thing in nature and apply this to God, as if God could

be addressed as some particular reality, the highest and first in the order of essences. God is not a being among others who is merely higher and more perfect than everything we know of. God cannot be approached in the line of “more of the same”—that is, the same as the perfections we encounter in the world of creatures, such as life, intelligence, goodness, and so on—but then enlarged to its maximum and purified from its imperfections. Analogy is often taken to be a sort of procedure of abstraction and sublimation by which finite perfections are purged of their material flaws and defects and then extended to their ultimate limit in God. In this way, however, the focus of thought remains somehow restricted to the order of essences and is still, what Thomas would call, “physical” in its way of conceiving reality. In my interpretation, analogy is not a matter of picking out some properties (perfections) belonging to one domain in order to apply them in a more perfect and purified form to another domain—the “domain” of God—since this view presupposes a conception of a hierarchy of essences which tends to regard God as the highest essence instead of being itself.⁶⁴

Metaphysically, the reason this approach is impossible is because the process of analogical naming involves the transfer of a name from one genus to another such that the limits of one domain are transcended by referring to another domain. ‘But in the case of the analogy of divine predication it is the whole of all categorically distinct things as such (as being) which is

It is a reality of substances *and* subjects and, in its highest form, the reality of persons who freely ‘have’ their nature’ (*Robert Spaemann’s Philosophy of the Human Person*, 42).

⁶³ Peter Simpson, “The Definition of Person: Boethius Revisited,” *New Scholasticism* 62, no. 2 (1988): 210–20 at 214.

⁶⁴ Te Velde, *Aquinas on God*, 117.

transcended towards something existing *extra omne genus*'.⁶⁵ That is why certain names do not count as appropriate for analogous divine predication, but still remain apposite for metaphorical use, such as 'lion' or 'stone', predicated of God.⁶⁶ The primary problem with this approach, even if it were to make the predication into the most sublime realm of particular beings, is that in the end, it makes God just another being among beings (thus falling into the ontotheological trap), and so, on Aquinas' terms, falling into the error of predicating things of God univocally.⁶⁷ The *via resolutionis* cannot be followed in order to speak analogically of divine persons in the same way we speak of Being. Why? Because persons, as distinct, cannot be reduced to the analogical unity of being *as* persons. The procedure of *secundum rationem* and *secundem rem* does not seem to work here, for it involves that resolution of all intrinsic causes from its effects into the commonness of being, and then refers this being to its extrinsic creator as cause. Analogy, thus far, seems to only apply metaphysically to Being. Thomas seems to reaffirm this emphasis on Being when he says in *De Potentia* that 'Being...signifies the highest perfection of all (*omnia perfectissimum*)', and is thus also 'the actuality of all acts, and therefore the perfection of all perfections (*perfectio omnium perfectionum*)'.⁶⁸ Because analogy, for Te Velde, is not that picking out of a higher 'this' amongst a univocal series of essences, he concludes therefore that '[a]nalogy is meant to articulate the commonness of effect and cause: the effect is *differently the same* as its cause, precisely insofar as it is being'.⁶⁹

The preceding may adequately suffice for an analogy of *being* as far as it goes,⁷⁰ but arguably for Aquinas, *being* is not the only 'thing' picked out analogously; nor is being *qua* being the only criteria for what counts as the 'highest' term. There is a temptation to assume that that which is 'absolute' is that which is the 'highest', 'best', or the entity spoken about most analogously.

⁶⁵ Ibid.

⁶⁶ *De Pot.*, q. 7, a. 5 ad 8; *ST*, q. 13, a. 3 ad 1.

⁶⁷ *ST*, I, q. 13, a. 5, sc. & co.

⁶⁸ *De Pot.*, q. 7, a. 2 ad 9. Similarly: '*ipsum esse* is the most perfect of all things (*perfectissimum omnium*), for it is compared to all things as that by which they are made actual; for nothing has actuality except so far as it exists' (*ST*, I, q. 4, a. 1 ad 3; and *ScG*, III, c. 66, n. 5).

⁶⁹ Te Velde, *Aquinas on God*, 117–18, emphasis in original.

⁷⁰ The specific practices named the 'analogy of being' stemming from the debate surrounding Przywara will be considered below in section c) of the next chapter.

In one sense, this is of course true; but in another, it is incomplete. Te Velde would not disagree with what follows, as he himself makes similar points in a separate, later article;⁷¹ nonetheless, his challenge above does serve as a useful proofing ground for any such analogical enterprise engaged in naming God. In order to complete this understanding we will consider absolute versus relative terms, the idea of perfections, and finally, how this enables one to understand the person as the ‘prime analogate’ of being.

b. *The Person Perfected*

Before continuing to answer this question, something must first be kept in mind regarding the terms ‘absolute’ and ‘relative’. In Aquinas, what is ‘absolute’ and what is ‘relative’ do not necessarily denote one thing that is ‘higher’ and another that is ‘lower’, especially if one is referring to God, due to divine simplicity (although this of course is true when referring to creatures in relation to God). Instead, denoting what is ‘absolute’ is to refer to that which is essential in God, and this is why persons cannot share the same absolute status: ‘nothing that is said of God absolutely can be understood as distinguishing and constituting the hypostases in the Persons, since what is predicated of God absolutely conveys the notion of something essential’.⁷² That which is ‘relative’ does not indicate imperfection, but only what is distinct.⁷³

With this clarification out of the way, in *De Potentia* Thomas devotes an entire article (q. 9, a. 3) to the question ‘In God Does the Term ‘Person’ Signify Something Relative Or Something Absolute?’ In varying degrees, there are eighteen objections listed attempting to argue that the person actually signifies the essence⁷⁴ and not the relation.⁷⁵ In the three *sed contra* statements,

⁷¹ Rudi A. Te Velde, “The Divine Person(s): Trinity, Person, and Analogous Naming,” in *The Oxford Handbook of the Trinity*, ed. Gilles Emery OP and Matthew Levering (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2011), 359–70.

⁷² *De Pot.*, q. 8, a. 3.

⁷³ ‘[I]n the Godhead nothing that is predicated absolutely, but only what is relative, can be distinct’ (*Comp. Theol.*, I, 61).

⁷⁴ *De Pot.*, q. 9, a. 4 args 1–3, 5–6, 10, 13–14.

Thomas first adheres to Boethius in noting that ‘ “every term that refers to the Persons signifies relation.” Now no term refers to the persons more than person itself. Therefore the word person signifies relation’.⁷⁶ Next, the terms Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are shown to signify relation, and as they are the three divine persons, it follows that person therefore signifies relation.⁷⁷ Lastly, because nothing essential or absolute is divided in God,⁷⁸ and persons are divided, therefore, the persons are relative.⁷⁹ Thomas’ given answer is as follows: ‘I answer that the term *person* in common with the absolute names of God is predicated of each Person, and does not in itself refer to anything else, and in common with the names signifying relation it is divided and predicated of several: wherefore it would seem that *person* admits of both significations absolute and relative. How the name *person* can admit of both significations has been explained in various ways’.⁸⁰ ‘Person’ opens up to contain both relative and absolute significations, the latter of which admits of essential predicates like truth, goodness, and wisdom which apply to all three divine persons, as they share the same nature.⁸¹ Additionally, ‘person’ also legitimately refers to the relation in a ‘semi’-absolute way (i.e., directly so) such that, as Thomas said in a previous question, in God relation can be something besides being merely relation, ‘for it is God’s very substance in reality: wherefore it can constitute something subsistent and not merely relative’.⁸² The status of ‘person’ as an absolute term comes from ‘its mode of signification: and yet it signifies a relation’.⁸³ The absolute *modus* of signification refers to the ‘substantive’ nature that the term signifies in its formal aspect, which makes plural designation possible.⁸⁴ Thomas illustrates

⁷⁵ *De Pot.*, q. 9, a. 4 args 4, 6–18.

⁷⁶ *De Pot.*, q. 9, a. 4, s.c. 1.

⁷⁷ *De Pot.*, q. 9, q. 4, s.c. 2.

⁷⁸ *De Pot.*, q. 7, a. 3 co.; q. 9, a. 7 ad 2; esp. q. 9, a. 8; *ST*, I, q. 3, a. 7; *ScG*, I, c. 42, n. 16; I, c. 58.

⁷⁹ *De Pot.*, q. 9, a. 4, s.c. 3.

⁸⁰ *De Pot.*, q. 9, a. 4.

⁸¹ For truth, see *De Ver.*, q. 1, a. 7; *ST*, I, q. 16, a. 5. For goodness, wisdom, etc., see *De Pot.*, q. 7, a. 5; *ST*, I, q. 6, a. 3; q. 13, a. 2.

⁸² *De Pot.*, q. 8, a. 3 ad 8.

⁸³ *De Pot.*, q. 9, a. 6 ad 2.

⁸⁴ *De Pot.*, q. 9, a. 6. ‘Accordingly seeing that *person* is a substantive the possibility of its being predicated in the plural depends on the form signified thereby. Now the form signified by the word *person* is not the nature absolutely, for in that case man and human person would mean the same thing which is clearly false: but person formally signifies incommunicability or

the substantive designation in the following illustration: ‘*What?* queries not only the essence but also sometimes the supposit, for instance: *What swims in the sea? Fish.* And so the answer to *what?* is the person’.⁸⁵

The remainder of Thomas’ detailed response to the various ways in which person can admit of both relative and absolute significations is as follows: first, Thomas considers two (insufficient) opinions for how this is so, and then he offers a more satisfying response. The movement of the article first considers the equivocal option, then what appears to be the univocal, and finally what I argue is the analogical solution. The first option considers those who ‘say that *person* signifies both [essence and relation], but equivocally’.⁸⁶ ‘Person’ signifies the essence absolutely in both the singular and the plural, ‘like the name “God,” or “good” or “great”’: but that owing to the insufficiency of names employed in speaking of God, the holy fathers in the Council of Nicaea accommodated the term “person” so that it could be employed sometimes in a relative sense, especially in the plural, as when we say that Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are three Persons, or with the addition of a disjunctive term as when we say: “One is the Person of the Father, another of the Son,” or: “The Son is distinct from the Father in person.””⁸⁷ Furthermore, when ‘person’ is predicated absolutely of the singular, it may also signify either the essence or the relation, e.g., ‘The Father is a person’, or, ‘The Son is a person’. The essence is signified absolutely, therefore, usually when referring to the singular, and then only relatively when referring to the divine persons in the plural—except in this latter, equivocal case where the Son is named *as* a person. But this proves unsatisfactory for Thomas because the wisdom of the Church Fathers chose the name ‘person’ (hypostasis), in response to heretical opinions, precisely *because* it did not signify the essence absolutely, but signified what was distinct, that is, the subsistent relations

individuality of one subsisting in a nature, as we have clearly explained. Since then there are several properties which cause a distinct and incommunicable being in God, it follows that *person* is predicated of God in the plural, even as it is predicated of man on account of the manifold individualizing principles’ (ibid.).

⁸⁵ *De Pot.*, q. 9, a. 4 ad 1. Also *ST I*, q. 29, a. 4 ad 2.

⁸⁶ *De Pot.*, q. 9, a. 4.

⁸⁷ Ibid.

revealed in Scripture as Father, Son, Holy Spirit.⁸⁸ In either case, to allow the essence to be signified directly *as a person*—even if ‘equivocally’ so—is inadmissible for it ultimately admits tritheistic conceptions to enter into the understanding of God.

The second, insufficient option under consideration admits of different aspectual versions of what appears to be univocal emphases on different aspects of the person. They both amount to signifying one thing directly (*in recto*) and the other indirectly (*in obliquo*), but neither of them equally. The first option in this group is the opinion that ‘person’ expresses the essence directly and the relation indirectly. Thomas elaborates on this in the parallel question in the *Summa Theologica* where he says: ‘forasmuch as “person” means as it were “by itself one” [*per se una*]; and unity belongs to the essence. And what is “by itself ” implies relation indirectly; for the Father is understood to exist “by Himself,” as relatively distinct from the Son’.⁸⁹ But this cannot be allowed for the same reason stated above, that is, that one cannot predicate the essence absolutely of the divine persons in a plural manner without lapsing into the notion of three ‘Gods’. The other view is the converse of the same idea where ‘person’ signifies the relation directly but the essence or nature indirectly. While Thomas still rejects this view in *De Potentia*, in the *Summa Theologica* he grants that, in contrast to the first, those who holds this view ‘come nearer to the truth’.⁹⁰ The reason why this option still fails (at least in *De Pot.*) is because although the relation is signified directly, ‘it should not be predicated absolutely, or of each Person’.⁹¹ Again, this is impossible because a relation by virtue of its definition is not ‘absolute’ because that is how the nature is signified. Moreover, some even attempt to say that ‘person’ signifies both directly, and some of those even say that it signifies them directly *and* equally. Thomas, too, rejects this approach as ‘unintelligible’, following Aristotle’s dictum that every term signifies (at least)

⁸⁸ Ibid. The parallel text in *ST* I, q. 29, a. 4 has the same reference to the Church Fathers response to heretical opinions.

⁸⁹ *ST*, I, q. 29, a. 4.

⁹⁰ Ibid.

⁹¹ *De Pot.*, q. 9, a. 4.

one thing in one sense, thus, that which does not signify something signifies nothing.⁹²

Thomas does not describe these two mirrored approaches as ‘univocal’, however, these unintelligible approaches are devoid of sense precisely because of the conceptual confusions which betray univocal presumptions. In the first example above, the divine persons are individuated by their subsistent, absolute essences in the plural, in the same way as human persons are individuated. Hence, each of the divine persons are thought of as more ‘absolute’ versions of each of us,⁹³ and could easily give rise within modernity of admitting, e.g., three psychological centres. But we know this is impossible because there is only one, shared, ‘consubstantial’ essence amongst the divine persons. In the second example (which is somewhat closer to the truth for Thomas), the relation is put on the same plane as that of the essence in order to be signified directly, which he fears will be signified absolutely, and each person cannot be ‘absolute’ for that is not how these terms work for the Church Fathers who fashioned these words over the years of the Church councils.

Before coming to his final answer,⁹⁴ Thomas first provides an account of how signification works in order to better grasp just *how* ‘person’ refers to the relation. He follows Aristotle such that ‘the proper definition of a term is its signification’.⁹⁵ Thomas’ aim is to understand how something may be ‘included in the meaning of a less common term, which is not included in the

⁹² Ibid. Thomas is referring to Aristotle’s *Metaphysics* 4.4.1006b7, where this concept is tied to the principle of non-contradiction. For Thomas’ commentary on this in *In Meta.*, IV, 7.613–615. E. J. Ashworth, “Signification and Modes of Signifying in Thirteenth-Century Logic: A Preface to Aquinas on Analogy,” *Medieval Philosophy and Theology* 1 (1991): 50n.48, points out that “a word had to have at least one significate, but that others were not ruled out.” See also Michael L. Ross, “Aristotle on ‘Signifying One’ at *Metaphysics* Γ 4,” *Canadian Journal of Philosophy* 25, no. 3 (September 1995): 375–393.

⁹³ See Te Velde’s concerns on this matter expressed above, from his *Aquinas on God*, 117–18.

⁹⁴ Thomas also remarks: ‘Hence others said that it signifies relation as affecting the essence: but it is difficult to see how this is possible inasmuch as relations do not determine the essence in God. And so others said that the relation does not express the absolute, i.e. the substance which is essence, but the substance which is hypostasis, since this is determined by a relation. This is indeed true, but does not make us any wiser, seeing that the meaning of hypostasis or subsistence is less clear than that of person’ (*De Pot.*, q. 9, a. 4), but these remarks do not much add to Thomas’ case (nor our own).

⁹⁵ *De Pot.*, q. 9, a. 4. Thomas’ reference is to *Metaphysics* 4.

more common term'.⁹⁶ The example referred to is that of 'animal' and 'man': to refer to an animal doesn't necessarily entail signifying man, as it may be any sensible animate substance whether cat or man; but when referring to man, it is always assumed that a man is a *rational* animal per its definition, and thus 'animal' is included in the designation as an indeterminate term falling under a common designation of a more determinate term. Thomas says, 'it is one thing to ask the meaning of this word "person" in general; and another to ask the meaning of "person" as applied to God'.⁹⁷ Thomas distinguishes here between formal and material significations.

Formally, 'person' will apply, analogously, to humans, angels, and divine persons, as individual substances of a rational nature.⁹⁸ As Robert Spaemann articulates it, 'To be a person is the form in which "rational natures" exist'.⁹⁹ Likewise, 'man' applies to that which is composed of a rational soul and the body. Furthermore, the person is a term relating to a genus, that of substance as it is applied to human persons being rational animals, so one formal differentiation is to be made here, that is: God is not contained in a genus.¹⁰⁰ But Thomas quickly dispatches with this by saying that God 'belongs to the genus of substance as the principle of the genus'.¹⁰¹ *Materially*, human persons are individuated such that it is a particular human nature which has this flesh, these bones, and this soul.¹⁰² The material designation of 'person', outside of the incarnation¹⁰³ and the sense which implies incommunicability in the subsistent nature,¹⁰⁴ is not fitting for designating a divine person.¹⁰⁵ What

⁹⁶ *ST*, I, q. 29, a. 4.

⁹⁷ *Ibid.*

⁹⁸ In *ST*, I, q. 29, a. 4 ad 4, Thomas flatly denies that person is spoken of in either an equivocal or univocal way of human persons, angels, and divine persons. For an account of the analogical extension involved in Boethius' definition of the person which makes Thomas' own application possible, see Simpson, "The Definition of Person: Boethius Revisited," 218–19; Seidl, "The Concept of Person in St. Thomas Aquinas," 435–60 at 450–8.

⁹⁹ Spaemann, *Persons*, 31.

¹⁰⁰ *ScG*, I, c. 25; *ST*, I, q. 3, a. 5; *Comp. Theol.*, I, 12–13.

¹⁰¹ *De Pot.*, q. 9, a. 3 ad 3.

¹⁰² *ST*, I, q. 29, a. 4; cf. q. 29, a. 2 ad 3.

¹⁰³ *ST*, III, q. 5, a. 2, where Aquinas affirms the material flesh and bones of the human body, although it is not through these parts that the assumption occurred (*ST* III, q. 6, a. 5).

¹⁰⁴ *ST*, I, q. 29, a. 3 ad 4.

¹⁰⁵ 'It is accidental to person as such that it is composite, because the complement or perfection required for personality is not to be found at once in one simple thing, but requires a combination of several, as is to be observed in men. But in God together with supreme simplicity there is supreme perfection: wherefore in him there is person without composition.'

individuates in humanity is the individual matter, but what individuates in the divine nature is relation of origin,¹⁰⁶ which is due to the fact that for Thomas, matter is not the first cause of individuation.¹⁰⁷ Concomitantly, what distinguishes human from divine persons is that divine persons are self-subsistent, whereas human persons, because they are materially composed, are not self-subsistent.¹⁰⁸ When referring to the divine person, because of the self-subsistence of each hypostasis, referring to a divine person signifies the nature *fully existing* as identical in the divine personal existence. Whereas for the human person, the lack of self-subsistence means that to refer to human nature, it does not directly involve the act of existence as identical with this nature; thereby, for the human, '[t]he person adds to the nature *the very act of existing*'.¹⁰⁹ In each case of differentiating the human person from the divine person, when speaking about the divine we have to transcend the *modus significandi* because no created reality is identical with *ipsum esse*.¹¹⁰

Thomas' answer is thus simply, 'the term "person" signifies nothing else but an individual substance of rational nature'.¹¹¹ Just as the determinate 'man' assumes the indeterminate 'animal' nature, so also the substance, whether of human or divine nature, is assumed under the name 'person' as it is an

As to the parts which combine to make the definition of person they do not argue composition in person except in material substances: and individual, being a negation, does not imply composition through being added to substance. Hence the only composition that remains is that of individual substance, i.e. hypostasis with the nature: which two in immaterial substances are absolutely one and the same thing' (*De Pot.*, q. 9, a. 3 ad 4).

¹⁰⁶ Likewise, while the material aspect cannot individuate what is proper in God, neither can a purely formal aspect individuate what is proper for the created human: 'For a thing may be understood to distinguish and constitute the hypostasis in two ways. It may be taken for the principle whereby the hypostasis is formally constituted and distinguished; as man is constituted by humanity, and Socrates by "socrateity": or it may be taken for the way as it were to distinction and constitution: thus we might say that Socrates is a man by his generation which is the way to the form whereby he is constituted formally. It is clear then that a thing's origin cannot be understood as constituting and distinguishing except in reference to that which constitutes and distinguishes formally: since if humanity were not produced by generation, never would a man be constituted by generation' (*De Pot.*, q. 8, a. 3).

¹⁰⁷ *ScG*, II, c. 40.

¹⁰⁸ *De Pot.*, q. 9, a. 3. ad 5. Cf. *ST I*, q. 39, a. 1 ad 1.

¹⁰⁹ Gilles Emery OP, *The Trinity: An Introduction to Catholic Doctrine on the Triune God*, trans. Matthew Levering (Washington, D. C.: The Catholic University of America Press, 2011), 105–6, emphasis in original.

¹¹⁰ Ashworth, "Signification and Modes of Signifying in Thirteenth-Century Logic," 59. For Thomas see *De Pot.*, q. 7, a. 2 ad 7; q. 7, a. 5 ad 2; *ScG*, I, c. 30; *Scriptum super Sent.*, I, d. 22, q. 1, a. 2 ad 1.

¹¹¹ *De Pot.*, q. 9, a. 4.

individual and incommunicably distinct from others. Thomas concludes, saying,

seeing that this [designation of a person as an individual substance of a rational nature] can be nothing else but a relation or a relative being, it follows that in its material signification it denotes a relation or a relative being. Hence it may be said that it signifies a relation by way of substance not *qua* essence but *qua* hypostasis, even as it signifies a relation not *qua* relation but *qua* relative: e.g. as signifying *Father* not as signifying *paternity*. For in this way the signified relation is included indirectly in the signification of the divine Person, which is nothing but something distinct by a relation and subsistent in the divine essence.¹¹²

That is, a divine person *is* a subsistent relation in the divine nature. Despite eschewing the mode of direct/indirect (*in recto/in obliquo*) in *De Potentia*, in the *Summa* Thomas allows for this language, saying that ‘it is true to say that the name “person” signifies relation directly, and the essence indirectly; not, however, the relation as such, but as expressed by way of a hypostasis’.¹¹³ The direct/indirect language is maintained throughout Thomas’ discussion of the divine persons.¹¹⁴ What he disallows is signifying the relation *absolutely*, for as a term signifying the essence, this makes no sense. The hypostasis is that ‘individual substance’, that supposit that refers to the relation (in God) or individual matter (in humans). With, therefore, the understanding of the term person ‘by force of its own proper signification’,¹¹⁵ one can now also say that ‘person’ signifies the essence directly, and the relation indirectly, ‘inasmuch as the essence is the same as the hypostasis: while in God the hypostasis is expressed as distanced by the relation: and thus relation, as such, enters into the notion of the person indirectly’.¹¹⁶ This latter point is explained more fully later in the *Summa* with regard to divine simplicity: in God the essence and hypostasis are really the same, but are distinguished according to our way of thinking¹¹⁷ and thus the creaturely limitations of our mode of signification.¹¹⁸

¹¹² Ibid.

¹¹³ *ST*, I, q. 29, a. 4.

¹¹⁴ Cf., e.g., *ST*, I, q. 34, a. 3 ad 1; q. 41, a. 5.

¹¹⁵ Ibid., I, q. 29, a. 4.

¹¹⁶ Ibid.

¹¹⁷ *ST*, I, q. 39, a. 1. Cf. ‘In each divine hypostasis we speak of something that is absolute: this belongs to the essence, and in our way of thinking precedes the divine relations. Yet that which we conceive as absolute, since it is common, does not regard the distinction of the

Despite this clarification, the fact remains that ‘person’ signifies, analogously, an individual substance of a rational nature which is the relation *qua* hypostasis. Since the divine relation is its own subsistent reality, ‘relative predication’ becomes now possible in speaking about divine persons.¹¹⁹

After considering the various opinions, Thomas rests on this simple solution, and it proves to not only be the most fitting, but it also proves to be the most analogous solution. This is due in part to the fact that the nature is analogously spoken of, whether of human, angelic, or divine persons, but it is also due to the very *perfection* of a person. It is true that Being is the ‘perfection of all perfections’ in God, but it should be noted that this is not because of its most ‘general’, or ‘common’ aspect; rather, in the places where Thomas speaks of being (*esse*) or being itself (*ipsum esse*) as the most perfect (*perfectissimum*),¹²⁰ the reference is to *esse* as the most perfect because it is the most actual. That is, being as act is perfect because it does not admit of any potency, for ‘act is always more perfect than potentiality’.¹²¹ Coextensive with this is God’s perfection not as the material cause (as this would admit of potentiality), but the most perfect efficient cause (*causae efficientis*) of all created reality.¹²²

There is an order at work here of act determining potentiality, and not the other way around, ‘since in defining a form we include its proper matter instead of the [potential] difference: thus we define a soul as the act of an

hypostases: so that it does not follow that we must conceive the hypostasis as distinct before we understand its relation’ (*De Pot.*, q. 8, a. 3 ad 5).

¹¹⁸ Emery says, ‘in our language about God, we signify the essence as if we were referring to a form: we *signify* “that through which” God is God, even though, in the divine reality itself, the divine essence is nothing other than the person (there is in God none of that composition of form and supposit which characterizes corporeal creatures). And we *signify* the person as the concretely existing subject or subsistent, even though the person has no other reality than the divine essence itself. Our words cannot do any better than this. The different ways of signifying the essence and the person follow from this. For this reason, because of the mode in which it is signified in our speech, the essence cannot take the place of the person: that which properly belongs to the person is thus not attributed to the essence’. Gilles Emery OP, *The Trinitarian Theology of St Thomas Aquinas*, trans. Francesca Aran Murphy (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2010), 146–7, emphasis in original.

¹¹⁹ For a parallel account which provides commentary on Boethius’ *De Trinitate*, see Pabst, “The Primacy of Relation over Substance and the Recovery of a Theological Metaphysics,” 553–78 at 574–5.

¹²⁰ *De Pot.*, q. 7, a. 2 ad 2; *ScG*, I, c. 28, n. 10; *ScG*, III, c. 66, n. 5; *ST*, I, q. 4, a. 1 ad 3.

¹²¹ *De Pot.*, q. 7, a. 2 ad 9; *ST*, I, q. 4, a. 1.

¹²² *ST*, I, q. 4, a. 1.

organic physical body'.¹²³ Whereas univocal terms have no ordering and are abstract ('human' is as true of Søren Kierkegaard as it is of Michael Pedersen Kierkegaard, despite the latter being the father of the former), analogy entails a concrete unity of order. An analogous term, according to Blanchette, 'always implies an order among the analogates, at least with reference to the primary analogate, and it cannot be understood apart from this order'.¹²⁴ Therefore, the ordering within the *via resolutionis*, while it is true to its logic to 'resolve' to the most common and perfect of all—being—it is just as appropriate to recognize the concrete ordering of things, and recognize with Thomas that "Person" signifies what is most perfect in all nature (*persona significat id quod est perfectissimum in tota natura*)—that is, a subsistent individual of a rational nature'.¹²⁵ Te Velde puts it well: 'Where "being" is found in the highest degree, entailing subsistence and intelligence, there must be "person" as well'.¹²⁶ And, Jean-Louis Chrétien renders the signification of 'what is most perfect' beautifully: 'the place where the world transforms its light into song'.¹²⁷ This resounds the same truth reflected in the following statement from *Gaudium et Spes*, which says that 'all things on earth should be ordained to man as to their center as summit'.¹²⁸ Thomas also calls the person that which 'is of all natures the most exalted' or 'most worthy' (*est omnium naturarum dignissima*).¹²⁹ The person's own dignity comes from its specifically metaphysical designation as existing through him- or herself.¹³⁰

Perfectissimum, a superlative describing that which is 'most perfect', relies on the logic of completion, that is, of that which reaches its complete end in

¹²³ *De Pot.*, q. 7, a. 2 ad 9.

¹²⁴ Blanchette, *Philosophy of Being*, 124. Cf. Yves R. Simon, "On Order in Analogical Sets," *New Scholasticism* 34, no. 1 (1960): 1–42; Burrell, *Analogy and Philosophical Language*, 202–9.

¹²⁵ *ST*, I, q. 29, a. 3.

¹²⁶ Te Velde, "The Divine Person(s): Trinity, Person, and Analogous Naming," 365.

¹²⁷ Jean-Louis Chrétien, *The Unforgettable and the Unhoped For*, trans. Jeffrey Bloechl, *Perspectives in Continental Philosophy* 26 (Fordham University Press, 2002), 128.

¹²⁸ *Gaudium et Spes* §12 in Flannery OP, *Vatican Council II*, 913.

¹²⁹ *De Pot.*, q. 9, a. 3.

¹³⁰ Gilles Emery OP, "The Dignity of Being a Substance: Person, Subsistence, and Nature," *Nova Et Vetera* 9, no. 4 (2011): 991–1001 at 992. The reference to Thomas' definition of dignity comes from *In III Sent.*, d. 35, q. 1, a. 4, q1a 1, corp. For excellent accounts of the issue of human dignity, see John F. Crosby, "A Neglected Source of the Dignity of Persons," in *Personalist Papers*, 3–32; Thomas D. Williams, *Who Is My Neighbor?: Thomistic Personalism and the Foundations of Human Rights* (Washington, D. C.: Catholic University of America Press, 2005), 146–64.

act.¹³¹ Because of its ‘ends’- or ‘completion’-orientated signification, Thomas says ‘that perfection cannot be attributed to God appropriately if we consider the signification of the name according to its origin; for it does not seem that what is not made (*factum*) can be called perfect (*perfectum*)’.¹³² All that comes to be is brought out of non-being to being, from potency to act when it is made. ‘That is why it is rightly said to be perfect, as being completely made, at that moment when the potency is wholly reduced to act, so that it retains no non-being but has a completed being. By a certain extension of the name, consequently, perfect is said not only of that which by way of becoming reaches a completed act, but also of that which, without any making whatever, is in complete act’.¹³³ When Thomas refers to Matthew 5:48 which says, ‘Be perfect as your heavenly Father is perfect’,¹³⁴ the Greek for ‘perfect’ here as τέλειός also shows its signification to be one of the completion of an end¹³⁵— which we see most starkly in the crucified person of Jesus Christ on the cross when he utters in John’s Gospel, ‘It is finished’ (Τετέλεσται).¹³⁶

When Thomas explains the reasoning behind the use of ‘nature’ (*natura*) and not ‘essence’ (*essentia*), one witnesses a similar logic of perfective completion at work. It is objected that ‘essence’ should be used in the definition of the person such that a person is an individual substance of a rational essence, because of the fact that, according to Aristotle, nature is the principle of motion and rest, and this cannot apply to God (or angels) in whom motion does not exist.¹³⁷ To this, Thomas replies that the principle is an intrinsic one that can be applied both formally or materially to apply to any kind of movement. That is,

the essence of anything is completed by the form; so the essence of anything, signified by the definition, is commonly called nature. And here nature is taken in that sense. Hence Boethius says (*De Duab. Nat.*)

¹³¹ For a recent account of the history of this concept, see Anthony D. Baker, *Diagonal Advance: Perfection in Christian Theology*, Veritas (London: SCM Press, 2011).

¹³² *ScG*, I, c. 28 n. 10.

¹³³ *Ibid.*, I, 28.10; cf. *ST*, I, q. 75, a. 5 ad 4; q. 54, a. 1; q. 4, a. 1 ad 3.

¹³⁴ *ST*, I, q. 4, a. 1, s.c.; *ScG*, I, c. 28, n. 10.

¹³⁵ Amongst numerous examples, see John 4:34, which reads, ‘Jesus said to them, “My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to complete [τελειώσω] his work.”’

¹³⁶ John 19:30.

¹³⁷ *ST*, I, q. 29, a. 1 obj 4.

that, “nature is the specific difference giving its form to each thing,” for the specific difference completes the definition, and is derived from the special form of a thing. So in the definition of “person,” which means the singular in a determined “genus,” it is more correct to use the term “nature” than “essence,” because the latter is taken from being, which is most common.¹³⁸

Not only does the specific difference of nature complete each thing in the received form of an act, but here Thomas shows that a perfection does not always follow from what is the most common. Instead, the perfection of a person is within a nature because of its distinction as a completed form, the most perfect in all of nature. In addition, this particular form of the person is part of an intrinsic teleological order such that all other natures—even the most cosmic—are ordered to it. Spaemann and Löw remark, ‘If the human is understood therefore generally as the purpose of nature, then he or she must be understood as the *telos* of all other natures, including the stars, which are the conditions of generation’.¹³⁹ That is, the whole generation of the cosmos is ordered toward the human person as its end.¹⁴⁰

Arriving at the choice of the person as the prime analogate (or *analogand*) happens in multiform fashion. Oliva Blanchette’s writing on analogy in his book *Philosophy of Being* is instructive here. Blanchette observes that, given a differentiation between lower and higher forms of being, it is befitting to begin with a ‘higher form of being as the primary analogate in order to arrive at a more comprehensive science of being as a whole, for the higher forms encompass the lower in a way that the lower cannot encompass the higher, just as the human form of being encompasses the lower forms, such as the sentient, the living, and even the nonliving, in a way that the nonliving cannot encompass living or sentient forms, let alone rational forms’.¹⁴¹ Persons are in this sense ‘more’ than their own nature, and because of this dignity, persons

¹³⁸ *ST*, I, q. 29, a. 1 ad 4.

¹³⁹ Robert Spaemann and Reinhard Löw, *Natürliche Ziele. Geschichte Und Wiederentdeckung Des Teleologischen Denkens* (Stuttgart: Klett-Cotta, 2005), 77 (translation mine).

¹⁴⁰ *ScG*, III, c. 22, nn. 8–9.

¹⁴¹ Blanchette, *Philosophy of Being*, 134. And see Te Velde, *Participation and Substantiality in Thomas Aquinas*, 248, 251–3, where Te Velde speaks about how a “more perfect form allows a thing to participate more perfectly in being” (here p. 251). This logic can be found as early as Dionysius, who, concerning the angelic orders in his *On the Celestial Hierarchy*, ch. 5, states, ‘in every sacred rank the higher orders have all the illuminations and powers of those below them and the subordinate have none of those possessed by their superiors’ (*Pseudo-Dionysius: The Complete Works*, 159 [PG 3:196b–c]).

can therefore encompass and recollect their own nature in ways that other substances cannot.¹⁴² Encountering being at its most replete does not occur in the encounter with ‘being’ as such, but always, through particular beings. Similarly, one does not encounter other forms first as mathematical equations nor as chemical compounds, but first as whole beings and other selves, including our own person in the presence of and among other persons.¹⁴³ Blanchette’s own *resolutio* does not *only* involve resolving reality into its most common term ‘being’ as if it was ‘some abstract entity or some lowest common denominator that would be found in all this plurality and diversity of beings as a ground apart from the plurality and diversity’.¹⁴⁴ This is because plurality and diversity are themselves real and the diversity and plurality *of* being, which includes these differences. At the height and perfection of these differences within being the person is found, encountered in oneself and in others in and amongst interpersonal relations,¹⁴⁵ as that particularly ‘unifying entity’ which is ‘adequate to the analogy of being as it presents itself in experience without reduction and without monopolization, for the higher identity of the human being leaves ample room for the lesser identity of lower beings, thus allowing for the differences of being not only within one and the same being but also between different kinds of being’.¹⁴⁶ It is only with the person as the primary analogate of being that, as its summit and perfection, we can account for being in all its difference.¹⁴⁷ Jan Aertsen sums up this nicely when he says, ‘The movement of egress and regress is characteristic of the entire created reality. But only man is able “by the way of resolution” to tend *explicitly* to God as end’.¹⁴⁸

In answering the question, ‘how does one arrive at the person?’ above, I have sought to explain how Te Velde’s concerns regarding analogous terms referring to God, while of utmost importance and most definitely not incorrect,

¹⁴² Spaemann, *Persons*, 98.

¹⁴³ Blanchette, *Philosophy of Being*, 135; cf. Clarke, “The ‘We Are’ of Interpersonal Dialogue.”

¹⁴⁴ Blanchette, *Philosophy of Being*, 140.

¹⁴⁵ Clarke, *The Philosophical Approach to God*, 91.

¹⁴⁶ Blanchette, *Philosophy of Being*, 138–9.

¹⁴⁷ *Ibid.*, 139.

¹⁴⁸ Aertsen, “Method and Metaphysics,” 417, emphasis in original; cf. *De Ver.*, q. 22, a. 2.

they were, however, incomplete. In every way, Thomas shows how the term ‘person’ is ‘malleable’ enough to include both human and divine persons, the latter of which are able to shed the ‘physical’ and univocal way that Te Velde warns against, turning on issues of formal signification and perfection. In exploring how *one* arrives at choosing the person as the prime analogate of Being, it is important to recognize that, in arriving at this juncture, one cannot conflate this with the *person’s* arrival, however much these two questions are related.¹⁴⁹ Blanchette reminds us that even in choosing the person as the primary analogate of being, one is still speaking *secundum esse*, that is, making designations within being and not yet necessarily to God.¹⁵⁰ That is, just like the metaphysicians’ arrival at being *qua* being, one must note that Thomas did not stop there, but connected this to the metaphysicians’ realization that there is a further step to make: the transcendent cause of (the transcendental) being.¹⁵¹ Te Velde calls this a ‘reflexive reversal’ where, in tracing the movement from effect to cause, ‘the cause is understood formally *as* cause, thus as positing through itself the effect’.¹⁵² In like manner, the *resolutio* of the person must also go under its own shift in recognizing the eminent *personal* cause of creation,¹⁵³ including the cause of the person, that is, where creation’s perfection is found in humans and preeminently in the divine persons. In order to examine this person as such, we must now look at the arrival of the person itself, but this shift cannot be done merely through looking at the biological emergence of the person as this would still be too ontic, too physical; in other words, the arrival of the true person would still be just a bigger projection of our own self. Therefore, this investigation must attend to the perfect form of the God-man which also takes up and redeems

¹⁴⁹ Thomas ascribes this error of conflation to the Platonists. *In Meta.*, X, 3.1964; Aertsen, *Medieval Philosophy and the Transcendentals*, 168.

¹⁵⁰ Oliva Blanchette, “Analogy and the Transcendental Properties of Being as the Key to Metaphysical Science,” *The Saint Anselm Journal* 2, no. 2 (Spring 2005): 1–23 at 10. And see Jeremy D. Wilkins, “Human Being as Primary Analogate of Being: Reflections on Blanchette’s ‘Key to Metaphysical Science,’” *The Saint Anselm Journal* 2, no. 2 (Spring 2005): 24–34, who attempts to supplement Blanchette’s work with further, theological resources.

¹⁵¹ That is not to say that the power to create belongs to any one of the divine persons, as creating for God belongs to the entire Godhead, as explained in *ST*, q. 44, a. 2. Certain appropriations, however, are allowed to specific persons (see *co.* and *ad 2*).

¹⁵² Te Velde, *Aquinas on God*, 130, emphasis in original, and see p. 107; *idem*, *Participation and Substantiality in Thomas Aquinas*, 138.

¹⁵³ *ST*, I, q. 45, a. 6.

materiality (and not the other way around).¹⁵⁴ This shift is helpfully explained by the logic of recapitulation as expounded by St Irenaeus of Lyons.

c. *Recapitulation: All Things Gathered up in the Person of Christ*

'Every good endowment and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights'. But there is something more. Inspired by the Father, each procession of the Light spreads itself generously toward us, and, in its power to unify, it stirs us by lifting us up. It returns us back to the oneness and deifying simplicity of the Father who gathers us in.

—Dionysius the Areopagite¹⁵⁵

All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being.

—John 1:3

Proceeding to talk about the arrival of the person entails a slight reconfiguration of perspective. In understanding the cause *as* cause, that is, in understanding the arrival of the person as *the* arch-person requires the reflexive reversal that can only be enacted in the event of recapitulation. The method of *resolutio* described above is, according to Thomas, more akin to that of the philosopher as opposed to that of the approach of the believer; that is, as Matthew Kostelecky puts it, ‘In philosophy the first consideration is of creatures and the last is of God; in the teaching of the faith the consideration of God comes first, that of creatures comes afterwards’.¹⁵⁶ However, as we have seen in exploration above, this was an approach from the creaturely realm that was informed by faith. The shift from seeing the cause *as* cause of all, of the arrival of the person who is truth, will always therefore be a

¹⁵⁴ Cf. *ST*, III, q. 2, a. 1.

¹⁵⁵ “The Celestial Hierarchy,” in Pseudo-Dionysius, *Pseudo-Dionysius: The Complete Works*, 145 [PG 3:120B]. He is quoting Jas 1:17.

¹⁵⁶ Matthew Kostelecky, “Human Nature Reflected in the Investigation of God: The Case of the *Summa Contra Gentiles*,” in *Divine Transcendence and Immanence in the Work of Thomas Aquinas*, ed. Harm Goris, Herwi Rikhof, and Henk Schoot, New Series XIII (Leuven: Peeters, 2009), 104–5. The reference to Thomas is to *ScG*, II, c. 4, n. 5. Cf. Lyttkens, *The Analogy Between God and the World*, 346.

recognition that is informed first by revelation. For the theological logic of recapitulation, we turn to the work of St Irenaeus of Lyons.

Recapitulation (ἀνακεφαλαιώσις) is itself not a single, univocal concept. Eric Osborn states that its complexity is a formidable one, combining at least eleven ideas: ‘unification, repetition, redemption, perfection, inauguration and consummation, totality, the triumph of Christus Victor, ontology, epistemology and ethics (or being, truth and goodness)’.¹⁵⁷ I will not be treating all of these concepts, nor do I hope to unfairly limit myself to only one of these at the expense of the others; that is to say, for my purposes, epistemology and ethics are not crucial aspects here, although they are not unimportant.¹⁵⁸

The word ‘recapitulation’ itself, as John Behr points out, originally stems from literary and rhetorical usage. The Roman rhetorician Quintilian remarks: ‘The repetition and grouping of the facts, which the Greeks call ἀνακεφαλαιώσις [recapitulation] and some of our own writers call enumeration, serves both to refresh the memory of the judge and to place the whole case before his eyes, and, even although the facts may have made little impression on him in detail, their cumulative effect is considerable’.¹⁵⁹ Behr comments on this, saying, ‘recapitulation summarizes the whole case, presenting a restatement of the case or story in epitome, bringing together the whole argument in one conspectus, so that, while the particular details made little impact, the picture as a whole might be more forceful. Recapitulation provides a résumé which, because shorter, is clearer and therefore more effective’.¹⁶⁰ Thus, Paul comments that the commandments are ‘summed up in this word (ἐν τῷ λόγῳ τούτῳ ἀνακεφαλαιούται), “You shall love your neighbour as yourself.”’¹⁶¹ The summing up is also a gathering, as Paul writes in Ephesians: ‘With all wisdom and insight he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ,

¹⁵⁷ Eric Osborn, *Irenaeus of Lyons* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2001), 97–8.

¹⁵⁸ E.g., *ibid.*, 232–48.

¹⁵⁹ Quintilian, *Institutio Oratoria*, 6.1.1. As cited in John Behr, *The Way to Nicaea*, 1: The Formation of Christian Theology (Crestwood, NY: St. Vladimir’s Seminary Press, 2001), 123.

¹⁶⁰ *Ibid.*

¹⁶¹ Romans 13:9.

as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up (ἀνακεφαλαιώσασθαι) all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth'.¹⁶²

Inspired by Paul's theology, for Irenaeus, recapitulation means primarily to join up again, gather up, and unite.¹⁶³ This happens primarily and uniquely in the person of Christ, but it involves the whole event of the life of Christ in the passion and resurrection as well.¹⁶⁴ Humanity is recapitulated in Adam, who we are told by Paul is a type (τύπος) of the one to come.¹⁶⁵ For Irenaeus, 'Adam is God's image because he has been fashioned after the physical form of the Son's future incarnation, and because the life visible in his person is the life of God'.¹⁶⁶ It is important to note that Irenaeus takes the Epistle to the Colossians quite seriously here which states that Christ 'is the image (εἰκὼν) of the invisible God, the firstborn (πρωτότοκος) of all creation'. Irenaeus is not merely glossing Genesis 1:26-7 but, in response to the various mythologies of Ptolemy and Valentinus, is displaying Christ's cosmic significance.¹⁶⁷ Humanity is created after (*secundum*) the likeness of God and Christ after (*ad*) the image,¹⁶⁸ which was not revealed in its fullness until the person of Christ became flesh.¹⁶⁹ The human person is created after the prototype of the Son (God's image),¹⁷⁰ and the Son thereby serves as 'man's antetype, the model or pattern after whom man was formed, at the time when he was created from the

¹⁶² Ephesians 1:8-10.

¹⁶³ Gustav Molwitz, *De ANAKEΦΑΛΑΙΩΣΕΩΣ in Irenaei Theologia Potestate* (Dresden: B. G. Teubner, 1874), 3; cited in Osborn, *Irenaeus of Lyons*, 103-4.

¹⁶⁴ Gustaf Wingren, *Man and the Incarnation: A Study in the Biblical Theology of Irenaeus*, trans. Ross Mackenzie (Edinburgh and London: Oliver and Boyd, 1959), 81-2; J. N. D. Kelly, *Early Christian Doctrines*, 5th, rev. ed (London: Continuum, 2000), 170-4; Jaroslav Pelikan, *The Christian Tradition: A History of the Development of Doctrine*, 1: The Emergence of the Catholic Tradition (100-600) (Chicago and London: University of Chicago Press, 1971), 144-5.

¹⁶⁵ Romans 5:14. Irenaeus points out that the Gnostics try and go above God and look for types of types in an infinite regress. Irenaeus, *Adversus Haereses*, IV.19.1,2 (hereafter *AH*). On this see Osborn, *Irenaeus of Lyons*, 105.

¹⁶⁶ Matthew C. Steenberg, *Irenaeus on Creation: The Cosmic Christ and the Saga of Redemption* (Boston, MA: Brill Academic Publishers, 2008), 135.

¹⁶⁷ For an excellent discussion of the background to this, see Matthew C. Steenberg, *Of God and Man: Theology as Anthropology from Irenaeus to Athanasius* (London: Continuum, 2009), 29-41.

¹⁶⁸ *AH*, IV.33.4 (PG 7:271C). For commentary on this passage, see J. T. Nielsen, *Adam and Christ in the Theology of Irenaeus of Lyons: An Examination of the Function of the Adam-Christ Typology in the Adversus Haereses of Irenaeus, Against the Background of the Gnosticism of His Time* (Assen: Van Gorcum & Comps., 1968), 58.

¹⁶⁹ *AH*, V.16.2.

¹⁷⁰ Steenberg, *Irenaeus on Creation*, 138.

dust of the earth'.¹⁷¹ Later, and in the same vein, Thomas Aquinas will say that humanity is made 'to the image of God' (*ad imaginem Dei*).¹⁷²

The logic of recapitulation is such that the first (Adam) becomes last, and the last (Christ) becomes first.¹⁷³ Perfection is imparted to humanity by joining the end to the beginning, linking humanity to God.¹⁷⁴ This linking is done through God's economy (*oikonomia*), who, in the person of Jesus Christ, recapitulates the long development of mankind in himself.¹⁷⁵ 'As one who perfects the human race, Christ must be a member of that race, and as first of all creatures and first-born from the dead he can bring humanity to perfection'.¹⁷⁶ This linking the end to the beginning also means that the end of the law of Christ is joined to the beginning.¹⁷⁷ Indeed, Irenaeus' protology is so deeply rooted first in Christology that John 1:3 serves as the lens through which Genesis 1:1 and the creation of humanity is to be read: 'All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being'—otherwise, the Genesis account alone remains partial.¹⁷⁸

This work of perfection effected in the Incarnation is of a 'higher' kind of perfection than the perfection of nature that we have learned to call the person, after Thomas' designation stated above.¹⁷⁹ Wingren states, 'There is in the Incarnation something that is essentially different from what we find in Creation, even when Creation is at its most perfect. That which became a reality in the Incarnation is not present even as a potentiality in man. He is

¹⁷¹ Wingren, *Man and the Incarnation*, 95.

¹⁷² *ST*, I, q. 93, a. 1; cf. *ScG*, I, c. 29, nn. 3–6.

¹⁷³ See Cunningham, *Darwin's Pious Idea*, 392–400, esp 393–7. Likewise, Erich Przywara says that Christ is 'the second Adam, and yet more first than the first one'. Erich Przywara, *Logos, Abendland, Reich, commercium* (Düsseldorf: Patmos Verlag, 1964), 147; cited by and trans. by Kenneth Oakes, "The Cross and the Analogia Entis in Erich Przywara," in *The Analogy of Being: Invention of the Antichrist or the Wisdom of God?*, ed. Thomas Joseph White (Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 2011), 158.

¹⁷⁴ *AH*, IV.20.4. Osborn, *Irenaeus of Lyons*, 106.

¹⁷⁵ *AH*, III.18.1. Nielsen, *Adam and Christ in the Theology of Irenaeus of Lyons*, 58. Going back seventy-two generations to Adam (*AH*, III.22.3).

¹⁷⁶ Osborn, *Irenaeus of Lyons*, 110–11. *AH*, V.1.3; III.18.7. And see John Behr, *Asceticism and Anthropology in Irenaeus and Clement*, *The Oxford Early Christian Studies* (Oxford and New York: Oxford University Press, 2000), 62–5.

¹⁷⁷ *AH*, IV.12.4.

¹⁷⁸ Steenberg, *Of God and Man*, 27.

¹⁷⁹ *ST*, I, q. 29, a. 3.

destined to be like God, but he has never been destined to be God'.¹⁸⁰ This Creator-creature distinction is important to remember, for as Osborn reminds us, for Irenaeus, recapitulation does not merely describe Christ's work as the head, chief, or 'summit' of things (although he is these things as well), but as the one who perfectly 'unites a vast plurality' and is thus the 'unity of all things'.¹⁸¹ Human nature is united in this or that particular person; but for the one through whom all things came into being, he unites all of being, all natures, not just in the here and now, but for all time until the eschaton. Lest we reduce recapitulation to a nominal saving of particular persons only up until the present time, it cannot be forgotten that recapitulation in the person of Christ 'covers the whole of the period from the birth of Jesus to the eschatological perfection'.¹⁸² The full likeness of man to God will also only be fulfilled 'in the participation in Trinitarian glory which is the promise of the eschaton'.¹⁸³ The difference between these two kind of 'perfections', that is, of the difference between the work of creation enacted in and through the second person of the Trinity in contrast to the perfection in created nature in the form of the human person, is also the difference between the primary analogate and its analogue in creation. The chasm here is, on the one hand infinite, but on the other hand the image and likeness still must be held together; in other words, the distance is enacted by the gift of participation in the body of Christ in the Eucharist. Otherwise, to hold that only the image alone, or only the likeness alone can be saved is to fall into the error of the Gnostics according to Irenaeus, for this sunders spirit from the body. On the contrary, 'by sharing in the body of Christ, which is the church, man can grow in the image and likeness of God'.¹⁸⁴

With the arrival of the true person who recapitulates all of reality, one can affirm now the co-primacy and coextensive reality of both God's oneness *and* God's triunity in three persons. What is common (God's *esse*) is distinct—but

¹⁸⁰ Wingren, *Man and the Incarnation*, 99.

¹⁸¹ Osborn, *Irenaeus of Lyons*, 115.

¹⁸² Wingren, *Man and the Incarnation*, 192 and 193–4.

¹⁸³ Steenberg, *Irenaeus on Creation*, 138. In speaking about the distinction between 'image' and 'likeness', Thomas designates two kinds of ways in which they are related, the first being a kind of 'preamble' and that which is more common in things; and the second being of the type described here which is the likeness being the perfection of the image (*ST*, I, q. 93, a. 9).

¹⁸⁴ *AH*, III.17.3. Osborn, *Irenaeus of Lyons*, 213.

not divided—from what is proper, just as it is true to say that the Father is the same thing as God, but ‘he is not common as God is, but proper (*sed proprium*)’.¹⁸⁵ It is for this reason that one must always hold these two together in a kind of reduplication (*redoublement*), as Gilles Emery often puts it, against a one-sided ‘personalism’ on the one hand or an ‘essentialism’ on the other.¹⁸⁶ It is in this sense that a truly theological analogy of being will only be adequate insofar as it is also simultaneously an analogy of persons. In a similar fashion, Aaron Riches remarks, ‘the *analogia entis*—though conceived in terms of what is one in God—arrives, nevertheless, in terms of the relationality of *personhood*: as a gift from someone. And what is personal and relational in God is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit’.¹⁸⁷

Above I have shown how the path of *resolutio* blossoms in a ‘reflexive reversal’ towards an affirmation of a cause of creation, not only in its beginnings, but in its end as linked to the beginning in the recapitulation through the person of Christ. The image of the human person is taken up through its participation in the Eucharist towards the eschatological completion of its likeness in Christ. Yet, this only offers a philosophical and theological justification for determining the person as a valid primary analogous term (which ‘stretches’ unto the eschaton). What about how analogy itself is said to operate? In the next chapter I will continue to extend my discussion of analogy. However, I will not be turning to the debate about analogy itself with regard to the classical issue of the analogy of being alone; on the contrary, what I will now show that when the analogy of being is investigated in detail, it finds its fulfillment and completion within a coextensive *analogia personae*.

¹⁸⁵ *De Pot.*, q. 8, a. 3.

¹⁸⁶ Gilles Emery OP, “Personalism or Essentialism in the Treatise on God in Saint Thomas Aquinas?,” *The Thomist* 64, no. 4 (2000): 521–63, esp. 527–36; idem, *The Trinitarian Theology of St Thomas Aquinas*, 44–8; idem, *The Trinity*, 86; idem, “The Doctrine of the Trinity in St Thomas Aquinas,” in *Aquinas on Doctrine: A Critical Introduction*, ed. Thomas G. Weinandy, OFM, Cap, Daniel A. Keating, and John P. Yocum (London and New York: T & T Clark, 2004), 67–89 at 50–1. Emery’s goal is to show, contra myriad unnuanced readings of Thomas, that the designations of what is ‘common’ and ‘proper’ to God follow in that order, not because Thomas is an ‘essentialist’ and persons are for him only an afterthought, but that this is due to the historical shape taken in responding to the heretical positions of Arianism and Sabellianism.

¹⁸⁷ Riches, “Being Good: Thomas Aquinas and Dionysian Causal Predication,” 473, emphasis in original.

CHAPTER 5
THE PERSONAL LOGIC OF ANALOGY

*For from the greatness and beauty of created things
we may, by analogy [ἀναλόγως], contemplate their Creator.*

—Wisdom of Solomon
13:5¹

Manuduction is the form of theosis.

—Peter M Candler, Jr²

*To reach God, man must go through all of nature and find him
under the veil where He hides Himself only to be accessible.
Thus the whole natural order comes between God and man as a
bond and as an obstacle, as a necessary means of union and as
a necessary means of distinction.*

—Maurice Blondel³

In this chapter I aim to show how the philosophical and theological use of analogical speech can refer to God not only in an ‘essential’ way, but also a proper or personal mode as well. This stems from the recognition that the human person is the most fitting as the primary analogate of Being as indicated in the previous chapter; moreover, it is rooted in the way in which analogy also functions as a distinctly personal enterprise. This chapter can be thought of as one answer to Lewis Ayres’ critique of ‘relational ontologies’, whose proponents fail ‘to offer an adequate account of analogy’.⁴ I share in Ayres’ critique of said theologians (e.g., Metropolitan John Zizioulas), primarily because their accounts of the person strongly tend toward speaking

¹ ἕκ γὰρ μεγέθους καλλονῆς καὶ κτισμάτων ἀναλόγως ὁ γενεσιουργὸς αὐτῶν θεωρεῖται’. ἀναλόγως is also often translated as ‘corresponding’ here, or classically as ‘proportionably’.

² Peter M. Candler, Jr., *Theology, Rhetoric, Manuduction, or Reading Scripture Together on the Path to God*, Radical Traditions (Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 2006), 44.

³ Blondel, *Action (1893)*, 410.

⁴ Lewis Ayres, “(Mis)Adventures in Trinitarian Ontology,” in *The Trinity and an Entangled World: Relationality in Physical Science and Theology*, ed. John Polkinghorne (Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 2010), 130–45 at 133.

of human and divine persons in a univocal manner, and hence do violence to the notions of nature and freedom in an unnecessarily dialectical way.⁵ It should be noted, though, that adding a personal dimension to the analogical discourse does not ensure any kind of certainty (as this would strive after univocity), just as in the same way persons themselves can never fully be grasped or defined, and then even only as analogical gestures such as we find in Boethius and Aquinas. Yet at the same time, the reality of the person is more *concrete* than any generic notion of ‘relationality’ can provide on its own. As I hope to show, the reason why persons and analogical talk about God (whether ‘common’ or ‘proper’) never succeed in comprehensive certainty resides in the fact that both God and human persons are themselves ultimately mysteries. Put in another way, the practice of analogical speech participates in the same reality which escapes definitional structure.⁶ While human persons share in this ultimate likeness of the mystery of the Triune God, this difference is analogical, that is, the mystery of God remains in an ‘ever greater’ dissimilarity from God’s creatures.

The plan of this chapter is as follows: I will first lay out the fundamentals of the debate concerning analogy and how it operates following Thomas Aquinas and the relevant literature with respect to its connection to causality and participation; next, I will consider what is at issue in the discussion surrounding the ‘analogy of the concept’ versus ‘analogy of judgment’ as a response to the writings of Christos Yannaras; finally, I will turn to the issues surrounding the *analogia entis*, Erich Przywara, and how they shed light on the analogical perfection of the person. Additionally, with the help of Hans Urs von Balthasar, I show how the shape of analogy is orientated to that of service. The previous chapter assumed a great deal of the logic and practice of

⁵ This is the astute argument of Douglas Farrow, “Person and Nature: The Necessity-Freedom Dialectic in John Zizioulas,” in *The Theology of John Zizioulas: Personhood and the Church*, ed. Douglas H Knight (Aldershot: Ashgate, 2007), 109–24. For two accounts of the violence of dialectics as they oppose the peaceableness of paradox, see John Milbank and Slavoj Žižek, *The Monstrosity of Christ: Paradox or Dialectic?*, ed. Creston Davis (Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 2009); and the forthcoming work: Rustin Brian, *Covering Up Luther: How Barth’s Christology Challenged the Deus Absconditus That Haunts Modernity*, Veritas (Eugene, OR: Wipf & Stock, 2013).

⁶ Burrell, *Analogy and Philosophical Language*, 23, 31–2.

what I will explore below, but in doing so, I hope to shed light on some of the issues that animate what is at stake in gesturing toward persons as analogical.

a. *The Work of Analogy between Univocity and Equivocity: Causality and Participation*

The recent literature on the debate concerning analogy used in theological speech about God has been vast.⁷ In the twentieth century, the controversy overlapped with and surrounded the two figures of Karl Barth and Erich Przywara, SJ under the heading of the *analogia entis* (this debate will be partially attended to in Part C below). Discussions of analogy have their beginnings in the Ancient Greeks including Plato and Aristotle,⁸ and its influence has been so pervasive that western European metaphysics cannot be

⁷ Lyttkens, *The Analogy Between God and the World*; George P. Klubertanz, *St. Thomas Aquinas on Analogy: A Textual Analysis and Systematic Synthesis*, Jesuit Studies (Chicago: Loyola University Press, 1960); Bernard Montagnes, *The Doctrine of the Analogy of Being According to Thomas Aquinas*, ed. Andrew Tallon, trans. E. M. Macierowski, Marquette Studies in Philosophy 25 (Milwaukee, WI: Marquette University Press, 2004); Ralph McInerney, *The Logic of Analogy: An Interpretation of St Thomas* (The Hague: Nijhoff, 1961); idem, *Studies in Analogy* (The Hague: Martinus Nijhoff, 1968); idem, *Aquinas and Analogy* (Washington, D. C.: Catholic University of America Press, 1996); Burrell, *Analogy and Philosophical Language*; idem, *Aquinas: God and Action*, 63–88, 131–85; James F. Anderson, *The Bond of Being: An Essay on Analogy and Existence* (St Louis, MO: Herder Book Co., 1949); idem, *Reflections on the Analogy of Being* (The Hague: Martinus Nijhoff, 1967); Henry Chavannes, *The Analogy Between God and the World in Saint Thomas Aquinas and Karl Barth*, trans. William Lumley (New York: Vantage Press, 1992); Clarke, “Analogy and the Meaningfulness of Language About God”; E. L. Mascall, *Existence and Analogy: A Sequel to “He Who Is”* (London: Darton, Longman & Todd, 1966), 92–121; Lorenz B. Puntel, *Analogie Und Geschichtlichkeit. Philosophiegeschichtlich-Kritischer Versuch Über Das Grundproblem Der Metaphysik* (Freiburg - Basel - Wien: Herder, 1969); Battista Mondin, *The Principle of Analogy in Protestant and Catholic Theology*, 2d ed., rev. and enriched (The Hague: Martinus Nijhoff, 1968); James F. Ross, *Portraying Analogy* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1981); Rolnick, *Analogical Possibilities*; Roger M. White, *Talking About God: The Concept of Analogy and the Problem of Religious Language* (Farnham: Ashgate, 2010); Rocca, *Speaking the Incomprehensible God*; D. Stephen Long, *Speaking of God: Theology, Language, and Truth* (Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 2009), 42–3, 55–81, 141–80, 212–15; Patrick Lee, “Language About God and the Theory of Analogy,” *The New Scholasticism* 58, no. 1 (1984): 40–66.

⁸ Lyttkens, *The Analogy Between God and the World*, 18–58; Mondin, *The Principle of Analogy in Protestant and Catholic Theology*, 1–4; Burrell, *Analogy and Philosophical Language*, 75–83; McInerney, *Aquinas and Analogy*, 30–47; Rocca, *Speaking the Incomprehensible God*, 77–92; White, *Talking About God*, 27–72.

thought without it.⁹ In this regard, analogy's origins are concerned with mathematical proportionality,¹⁰ but also, for Plato it involved the proportion between the four elements as well as the four forms of knowledge (knowledge : opinion :: thinking : imagining).¹¹ Aristotle restricted his use of analogy to more logical, semantic concerns. Theologically, the practice of analogy takes most of its cues from the different writings of Thomas Aquinas as its point of departure on the one hand,¹² and as a 'doctrine' as such, from the work of Cardinal Cajetan in his *De Nominum Analogia*.¹³ To a large extent, most of the writing around analogy in the middle of the twentieth century was attempting to sort through the Cajetanian legacy. Most accounts (Ralph McInerny and David Burrell) tend to argue that Cajetan attempted to 'systemetize' Aquinas along the lines of a 'procrustean' analogy of proportionality (*analogia proportionalitatis*) and thus in effect unwittingly turn analogy into a formalized univocity;¹⁴ additionally, a recent account by Joshua Hochschild attempts to defend Cajetan as responding to a different set of concerns than Aquinas' own.¹⁵

Much of the literature concerns the metaphysical issues involved in such analogical designation, but Thomas cannot also be understood outside of his

⁹ Puntel, *Analogie Und Geschichtlichkeit*, 4.

¹⁰ White, *Talking About God*, 11–25, 59, 121–2.

¹¹ Respectively, see *Timaeus*, 32c and *Republic*, 534a.

¹² *ST*, I, q. 13, aa. 5–6; *De Pot.*, q. 7, a. 7; *ScG*, I, c. 34; Lyttkens calls these three passages "decisive" in *The Analogy Between God and the World*, 286. For a more comprehensive list of sources in Thomas, see the two indices in Klubertanz, *St. Thomas Aquinas on Analogy*, 157–302.

¹³ Cardinal Cajetan, *The Analogy of Names and The Concept of Being*, trans. Edward A. Bushinkski, 2nd ed., Duquesne Studies: Philosophical Series 4 (Pittsburgh, PA: Duquesne University Press, 1959), 9–78.

¹⁴ McInerny, *The Logic of Analogy*, 1–23; Burrell, *Analogy and Philosophical Language*, 11–20, 119–22; Burrell, *Aquinas: God and Action*, 63–4; McInerny, *Aquinas and Analogy*, 3–29.

¹⁵ Hochschild, *The Semantics of Analogy: Rereading Cajetan's De Nominum Analogia* (Notre Dame, IN: University of Notre Dame Press, 2010). See the diverging reviews of Hochschild's book, first appreciative but skeptical, by Rolnick: Philip A. Rolnick, "The Semantics of Analogy: Rereading Cajetan's De Nominum Analogia— By Joshua Hochschild," *Modern Theology* 28, no. 1 (January 2012): 141–5. And then surprisingly positive by Burrell: David B. Burrell, "The Semantics of Analogy: Rereading Cajetan's De Nominum Analogia by Joshua P. Hochschild," *Nova Et Vetera* 9, no. 1 (Winter 2011): 252–6. But this may be, because, as Rolnick says in his review, 'Hochschild is consistently balanced and fair in his expositions, but he may not realize how close he comes to where Burrell has long been' (Rolnick, "The Semantics of Analogy, by Joshua Hochschild," 144).

context of thirteenth century logic and semantics.¹⁶ It is, of course, following Aquinas, best to keep these two concepts together, but *ordered* such that metaphysics comes first followed by its logical, semantic use as a science, for the latter depends on the former, and not vice versa. The reason that this is important to keep in mind is that both McNerny and Burrell claim that analogy is only a logical or semantic concern.¹⁷ Burrell will go so far as to say that what is primarily operative for Thomas is an epistemology such that ‘Aquinas’ metaphysics presupposes an epistemology’.¹⁸ In one sense this appears to be true insofar as Aquinas’ method is one that admits that we cannot know what God is, but rather what God is not.¹⁹ But this is to assume that theology’s ‘object’ (i.e. God) only concerns knowledge and that there is no aspect that the endeavor also includes a real (i.e. ontological) participation in its end. In response to these epistemological sensibilities, Conor Cunningham rightly notes analogy’s manuductive aspect: ‘In terms of theology, analogy is part of a metaphysical doctrine, and so it is cosmological, rather than epistemological, and only as such can we appreciate its position

¹⁶ See, e.g., the helpful historical work of E. J. Ashworth, “Signification and Modes of Signifying in Thirteenth-Century Logic”; idem, “Analogy and Equivocation in Thirteenth-Century Logic: Aquinas in Context,” *Mediaeval Studies* 54, no. 1 (1992): 94–135; idem, “Suárez on the Analogy of Being: Some Historical Background,” *Vivarium* 33, no. 1 (1995): 50–75.

¹⁷ On this see Ralph McNerny, “The Analogy of Names Is a Logical Doctrine,” in *Being and Predication: Thomistic Interpretations*, Studies in Philosophy and the History of Philosophy 16 (Washington, D. C.: Catholic University of America Press, 1986), 279–86. See also Herbert McCabe, OP, *God and Evil: In the Theology of St Thomas Aquinas* (London and New York: Continuum, 2010), 56–8. To this, Burrell’s work can be added to a large extent as approving of McNerny’s work. See the sources listed above (fn. 3) as well as David B. Burrell, “From Analogy of ‘Being’ to the Analogy of Being,” in *Recovering Nature: Essays in Natural Philosophy, Ethics, and Metaphysics in Honor of Ralph McNerny*, ed. Thomas S. Hibbs and John O’Callaghan (Notre Dame, IN: University of Notre Dame Press, 1999), 253–66. Although, over the years he has been moving somewhat to embrace more metaphysical and Platonic ‘participatory’ language such as that of ‘emanation’, e.g., David B. Burrell, “Act of Creation with Its Theological Consequences,” in *Aquinas on Doctrine: A Critical Introduction*, ed. Thomas G. Weinandy, OFM, Cap, Daniel A. Keating, and John Yocum (London and New York: T & T Clark, 2004), 27–44, esp. 33–8; idem, “Metaphysics of Creation,” in *Belief and Metaphysics*, ed. Peter M. Candler, Jr. and Conor Cunningham, Veritas (London: SCM Press, 2007), 66–72. For an account of this movement, including a hesitation toward participation language in his earlier works, see Rolnick, *Analogical Possibilities*, 123–6, 161, 184–6. For a recent work defending analogy as belonging ‘entirely to the science of Logic’, see John R. Mortensen, *Understanding St. Thomas on Analogy* (Rome, Italy: The Aquinas Institute for the Study of Sacred Doctrine, 2006), stated here on p. 1.

¹⁸ Burrell, *Analogy and Philosophical Language*, 127.

¹⁹ *ST*, I, q. 3, prologue.

and function; a function which is also more pedagogical than epistemological'.²⁰

Lawrence Dewan has shown just how limiting and misleading this approach is in response to Ralph McInerny's mature work on the matter.²¹ McInerny, as a logician, claims that analogy in Thomas is only 'logical', yet Thomas himself clearly speaks about analogy both from the position of the logician and the metaphysician. Thomas speaks of a situation (which McInerny ignores)²² where the logician will see only univocity in naming and the metaphysician will recognize analogy. This is because the real diversified content of being demands such careful, metaphysical discernment.²³ It is the metaphysician, not the logician, who actually goes about defining genus, species, and the analogue involved in analogous speech, and, in turn, it is the logician who benefits from the metaphysician's discernment, not the other way around.²⁴ Moreover, as Klubertanz points out, the logician is not concerned with 'the way in which perfections are in being but only the way in

²⁰ Cunningham, *Genealogy of Nihilism*, 181.

²¹ Lawrence Dewan, "St. Thomas and Analogy: The Logician and the Metaphysician," in *Form and Being: Studies in Thomistic Metaphysics* (Washington, D. C.: The Catholic University of America Press, 2006), 81–95; Lawrence Dewan, "Does Being Have a Nature? (Or: Metaphysics as a Science of the Real)," in *Approaches to Metaphysics*, ed. William Sweet (Dordrecht: Kluwer Academic Publishers, 2004), 23–59; Reinhard Hütter, "Attending to the Wisdom of God — from Effect to Cause, from Creation to God: A Relecture of the Analogy of Being According to Thomas Aquinas," in *The Analogy of Being: Invention of the Antichrist or the Wisdom of God?*, ed. Thomas Joseph White (Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 2011), 209–45 at 224–8. Dewan is responding to McInerny, *Aquinas and Analogy*. Gabriela Besler compares two different approaches to analogy, one logical, and the other metaphysical, as coming from two different but legitimate standpoints in "Two Thomistic Interpretations: Thomas Aquinas' Theory of Analogy — Bocheński Versus Krapiec," in *Divine Transcendence and Immanence in the Work of Thomas Aquinas*, ed. Harm Goris, Herwi Rikhof, and Henk Schoot, New Series XIII (Leuven: Peeters, 2009), 149–62. Lastly, see Te Velde, *Aquinas on God*, 121 n.49.

²² Dewan, "St. Thomas and Analogy: The Logician and the Metaphysician," 90.

²³ The text at issue is from Thomas at *In I Sent.*, d. 19, q. 5, a. 2 ad 1. Cf. *De Pot.*, q. 7, a. 7, s. c. 1. See Dewan, "St. Thomas and Analogy: The Logician and the Metaphysician," 87ff. 'The metaphysician incorporates into the meaning of the name of the thing differences in the mode of being of the things given the common name' (Ibid., 92).

²⁴ Dewan, "St. Thomas and Analogy: The Logician and the Metaphysician," 83–4, 94. Cf. Thomas Aquinas, *Aquinas On Being and Essence: A Translation and Interpretation*, ed. Joseph Bobik (Notre Dame, IN: University of Notre Dame Press, 1965), 100 (c. 39). Here Thomas speaks about how the oneness of a genus is signifying its form and not its content, to which it is indifferent. Te Velde remarks: 'The unity of a genus is a unity of signifying, not a unity of what is signified. For instance, the genus of animal signifies the essence of animal as one and the same in all its different species, hence in an indeterminate manner. The genus does not deny the existence of the differences, it does not consider them; its way of signifying is indifferent to what is not indifferent in the thing signified' (*Participation and Substantiality in Thomas Aquinas*, 195–6).

which they are conceived'.²⁵ There is, therefore, an unnecessarily parsimonious view that the logician tends to take here: the logician tends to deny that there is a metaphysical aspect involved in the judgment of naming; whereas, the metaphysician will allow for *both* the metaphysical and the logical aspects to operate not just in tandem, but in their own proper order, for, as Klubertanz remarks, 'both the mind and the things are concerned' when analogy arises.²⁶

It will not suffice to settle for the following remarks of David Burrell: 'the "analogical use of language" refers both to the linguistic structures which make such usage possible, as well as to the quality of consciousness which guides the way we actually proceed'.²⁷ Using language analogously is only part of the procedure. The reason we employ language analogously in the first place is because the *reality* involved is so expansive that the *ratio* of our concepts cannot contain them in adequate ways; on the contrary, by their very definition these realities are impossible to contain in any genus, such as being, or God. There is, of course, nothing wrong with focusing on the analogous use of language, and so there is also nothing wrong *per se* with taking inspiration from Wittgenstein's emphasis on use and following examples²⁸—indeed, it can be very helpful. However, if we are to allow Thomas to lead us by the hand, we cannot stop short at the Aristotelian-inspired emphasis on the grammar of language itself,²⁹ for being led in a faithful *manuductio* will *also* reveal the Neoplatonic logic at work in Thomas' own words, even when those words themselves use Aristotelian categories.³⁰ The Neoplatonic aspect comes out

²⁵ Klubertanz, *St. Thomas Aquinas on Analogy*, 114.

²⁶ *Ibid.*

²⁷ David B. Burrell, "Beyond a Theory of Analogy," ed. George F. McLean, *Proceedings of the American Catholic Philosophical Association* 46, The Existence of God (1972): 114–22 at 116.

²⁸ Ludwig Wittgenstein, *Philosophical Investigations*, ed. P. M. S. Hacker and Joachim Schulte, trans. G. E. M. Anscombe, P. M. S. Hacker, and Joachim Schulte, 4th Edition (West Sussex: Wiley-Blackwell, 2009), 76–81 (§§ 172–82); cf. Burrell, *Analogy and Philosophical Language*, 123.

²⁹ Cf. John Milbank, "A Critique of the Theology of the Right," in *The Word Made Strange*, 7–35 at 13–14 and esp. 33n.15.

³⁰ This is one of the incisive points made in Lyttkens, *The Analogy Between God and the World*, 172–3, 297–8, 346, 352–3. Crucially, see W. Norris Clarke, "The Limitation of Act by Potency in St. Thomas: Aristotelianism or Neoplatonism?," in *Explorations in Metaphysics: Being—God—Person* (Notre Dame, IN: University of Notre Dame Press, 1994), 65–88; W. Norris Clarke, "The Meaning of Participation in St. Thomas," in *Explorations in Metaphysics:*

especially with regard to the vertical dimension of the relationship of cause to effect.³¹ If one is to be led by Aquinas' hand in the practice of analogy, one needs to pay attention to both the horizontal and the vertical aspects of this leading, for it is only in this way will one also heed the order of arrival explored in the previous chapter—otherwise we are only left with the philosophical *resolutio* and never make the theological step of recognizing God as the (uncaused) cause of Being itself.³² This particular path of philosophical-theological discovery must always be maintained for the following reason given by Thomas: because we cannot know directly God's essence, we only know God from God's effects as mediated by secondary causes.³³ Therefore, while in the strictest sense we do not have any conception of God, Thomas sheds light on a faithful approach that allows us to begin to come to an understanding of who God is. Thus, Thomas' aim is to avoid idolatry and not mistake created things for God. Accordingly, Te Velde says, 'The formula *ipsum esse subsistens* signifies God as he is knowable to us on the basis of his "reflection" in the world'.³⁴ Analogical language appears to hold a privileged place in Thomas' account of language of God, for it points toward this similarity-in-difference that the creature shares with its creator in such a way that the relationship between the two retains its faithful dignity, and he does so without collapsing the one into the other, or putting them asunder.

For Thomas, above all, analogical language is a part of, and not to be separated from, language about God—namely, under the rubric of 'The Names

Being—God—Person (Notre Dame, IN: University of Notre Dame Press, 1994), 89–101; John F. Wippel, "Thomas Aquinas and Participation," in *Studies in Medieval Philosophy*, ed. John F. Wippel (Washington, D. C.: Catholic University of America Press, 1984), 117–58; Te Velde, *Participation and Substantiality in Thomas Aquinas*; and the chapter entitled "Platonism and Aristotelianism in Aquinas" in John F. Wippel, *Metaphysical Themes in Thomas Aquinas II*, Rev. Ed, *Studies in Philosophy and the History of Philosophy* 47 (Washington, D. C.: The Catholic University of America Press, 2007), 272–89.

³¹ Lyttkens, *The Analogy Between God and the World*, 71, where it is shown that this begins in Proclus. More directly, as I will show below, this Proclean dimension is inherited from Dionysius.

³² Cf. *Ibid.*, 346. In this sense, we would only end up at a transcendentalism and never arrive at the *transcendent*.

³³ *ScG*, I, c. 11, n. 4; II, c. 15; *ST*, I, q. 1, a. 7 ad 1; q. 2, a. 1; q. 2, a. 2; q. 12, a. 8, etc.; *De Ver.*, q. 2, a. 14.

³⁴ Te Velde, *Participation and Substantiality in Thomas Aquinas*, 120.

of God', which is the title of question 13 of the *Summa Theologica*.³⁵ The name of this question hearkens back to the tradition of divine naming stemming back to Dionysius.³⁶ In keeping with this Dionysian tradition, Thomas begins Article 1 of Question 13 with a reference to the *triplex via* method of naming also employed by Dionysius.³⁷ That is, because we cannot know God's essence, 'we know God from creatures as their principle (*secundum habitudinem principii*), and also by way of excellence and remotion'.³⁸ Although the order here is not exactly the same (the second two being reversed), this corresponds to the three steps of *per causalitatem*, *per remotionem*, and *per eminentiam*, whereby God is 1) first recognized as the cause of the perfection name in question, 2) then through negation in the sense that God is 'not' at all like the way in which we understand the perfection because 3) God is the transcendent source of the perfection in a most excellent way (although the ordering of the *triplex via* varies with the context for Thomas).³⁹ The way of eminence is emphasized in Article 2 where Thomas discusses substantial predication of God. Words such as 'good' can be attributed to God, not merely because God is the cause of Goodness, but because whatever goodness we attribute to God pre-exists in God and 'in a more excellent and higher way'.⁴⁰ Article 2 responds to the issue of speaking literally of God, offering the classic distinction of the *res significata* and

³⁵ Te Velde, *Aquinas on God*, 102.

³⁶ Herbert McCabe's translation of this question as 'Theological Language' tends to obscure Thomas' connection to the divine names tradition of Dionysius. See Herbert McCabe, OP, ed., *St. Thomas Aquinas: Summa Theologiae*, vol. 3 (New York: McGraw-Hill, 1963), 46–97.

³⁷ For a helpful discussion see O'Rourke, *Pseudo-Dionysius and the Metaphysics of Aquinas*, 31–41; Te Velde, *Aquinas on God*, 76–7, 96, 103–4; idem, *Participation and Substantiality in Thomas Aquinas*, 120–1; Rocca, *Speaking the Incomprehensible God*, 49–74; Long, *Speaking of God*, 153, 176–80. And see the excellent article: Aaron Riches, 'Being Good: Thomas Aquinas and Dionysian Causal Predication', *Nova et Vetera* 7, no. 2 (2009): 439–76.

³⁸ *ST*, I, q. 13, a. 1. Dionysius says in *On the Divine Names*, 'we cannot know God in his nature, since this is unknowable and is beyond the reach of mind or of reason. But we know him from the arrangement of everything, because everything is, in a sense, projected out from him, and this order possesses certain images and semblances of his divine paradigms. We therefore approach that which is beyond all as far as our capacities allow us and we pass by way of the *denial and the transcendence of all things and by way of the cause of all things* [ἐν τῇ πάντων ἀφαιρέσει καὶ ὑπεροχῇ καὶ ἐν τῇ πάντων αἰτίᾳ]. God is therefore known in all things and as distinct from all things. He is known through knowledge and through unknowing'. (Pseudo-Dionysius, *Pseudo-Dionysius: The Complete Works*, 108–9 [PG 3:869D-872A]).

³⁹ See Michael B. Ewbank, "Diverse Orderings of Dionysius's *Triplex Via* By St. Thomas Aquinas," *Medieval Studies* 52 (1990): 82–109; cited by Riches, "Being Good: Thomas Aquinas and Dionysian Causal Predication," 463–4 and 463n.115.

⁴⁰ *ST*, I, q. 13, a. 2.

modus significandi.⁴¹ That is, perfection terms *can* literally (which is not to be confused with ‘univocally’) apply to God so long as the following procedure is followed: ‘As regards what is signified (*quod significat*) by these names, they belong properly to God, and more properly than they belong to creatures, and are applied primarily to Him. But as regards their mode of signification (*modum significandi*), they do not properly and strictly apply to God; for their mode of signification applies to creatures’.⁴² Such designations include perfection terms as ‘being’, ‘good’, ‘living’,⁴³ and, I would add, ‘person’. Before turning to the issue of analogy, Aquinas also refutes (in Article 4) that these names of God are not synonymous and therefore redundant because of the fact that their manifold diversity represent the divine simplicity *from the side of creation* in an imperfect way. The one simple reality of God that these names signify are considered under different aspects.⁴⁴

Thomas turns to analogical predication in the fifth article, but does so first as a response to univocal predication. All three of the objections assume a univocal predication between creatures and God, but Thomas replies that this is impossible because of the nature of causality when a divinely simple God creates. Elsewhere, Thomas quotes Isaiah 40:18, ‘To whom then have you

⁴¹ *ST*, I, q. 13, a. 3. For other place in Aquinas see *ScG*, I, c. 34, n. 6; *Comp. Theol.*, I, c. 27. For discussions of the distinction see Ashworth, “Signification and Modes of Signifying in Thirteenth-Century Logic” (for historical background); Lyttkens, *The Analogy Between God and the World*, 294, 350, 376–81, 468–71; Rocca, *Speaking the Incomprehensible God*, 334–52; Long, *Speaking of God*, 174–7. Critically: John S. Morreall, *Analogy and Talking About God: A Critique of the Thomistic Approach* (Washington, D. C.: University Press of America, 1978), 114, calls the distinction “bogus.” Ashworth remarks, ‘while the distinction between *res significata* and *modi significandi* is central to Aquinas’s theory of religious language, it is in no way central to his theory of analogy (insofar as he has a general theory). It places no role in his explanation of the use of such words as *sanum* and *ens*’ (“Signification and Modes of Signifying in Thirteenth-Century Logic,” 60; idem, “Analogy and Equivocation in Thirteenth-Century Logic,” 122). This assumes falsely that analogy lies outside of Thomas’ ‘religious language’, as if Thomas was not using the analogy of health (*sanus*) to talk *analogously* about how we refer to God. Oddly, Burrell, *Analogy and Philosophical Language*, 116–17, 178–80, says that the *res/modus* distinction is more “at home” in John Duns Scotus than in Aquinas, for it assumes a univocal core. Rocca, *Speaking the Incomprehensible God*, 349n.46, points out that John Wippel has absolved Thomas of this. See John F. Wippel, *Metaphysical Themes in Thomas Aquinas*, *Studies in Philosophy and the History of Philosophy* 10 (Washington, D. C.: Catholic University of America Press, 1984), 238.

⁴² *ST*, I, q. 13, a. 3.

⁴³ *ST*, I, q. 13, a. 3 ad 1.

⁴⁴ *ST*, I, q. 13, a. 4 ad 3 puts it succinctly: ‘The perfect unity of God requires that what are manifold and divided in others should exist in Him simply and unitedly. Thus it comes about that He is one in reality, and yet multiple in idea, because our intellect apprehends Him in a manifold manner, as things represent Him’. Cf. *De Pot.*, q. 7, a. 6.

likened God?’⁴⁵ Echoing the arguments outlined above in Article 4, God as the efficient cause possesses all perfections within himself,⁴⁶ but because the effect of creation is not an ‘adequate result of the power of the efficient cause, [it] receives the similitude of the agent not in its full degree, but in a measure that falls short, so that what is divided and multiplied in the effects resides in the agent simply, and in the same manner’.⁴⁷ Applying the term ‘wise’ to the human person and to God can in no way be univocal, for wise is an accidental attribute of the human and distinct from his or her essence, whereas in God it is identified with the essence.⁴⁸ Nor can we name creatures and God in a purely equivocal way either, for ‘it follows that from creatures nothing could be known or demonstrated about God at all’.⁴⁹ As an answer to navigating this dilemma, Thomas proposes that these names are said ‘in an analogous sense, i.e. according to proportion (*secundum analogiam, idest proportionem*)’.⁵⁰ Interpretive difficulties have plagued the remainder of the article ever since Cajetan. While I will not sort through all the subsequent history including figures such as Sylvester of Ferrara and Francisco Suárez,⁵¹ below I will provide exegesis with reference to the recent relevant accounts that bring out what I hope to show is Aquinas’ own emphasis in the matter.

Thomas proceeds by saying that analogous names are used in two ways, the first of which carries primarily on the predicative level, while the second, to which Thomas gives more emphasis, operates at the transcendental level. The first example Thomas gives is when many things are ‘proportionate to one

⁴⁵ *De Pot.*, q. 7, a. 7, s. c. 3.

⁴⁶ *ST*, I, q. 4, a. 2.

⁴⁷ *ST*, I, q. 13, a. 5.

⁴⁸ Cf. *De Pot.*, q. 7, a. 7, s. c. 5. ‘Now God’s relation to being is different from that of any creature’s: for he is his own being, which cannot be said of any creature. Hence in no way can it be predicated univocally of God and a creature, and consequently neither can any of the other predicables among which is included even the first, *being*: for if there be diversity in the first, there must be diversity in the others: wherefore nothing is predicated univocally of substance and accident’ (*De Pot.*, q. 7, a. 7, co.).

⁴⁹ *ST*, I, q. 13, a. 5. While he does not mention it in this article, in *De Pot.*, q. 7, a. 7 Thomas names Moses Maimonides as an example of one expressing ‘pure equivocation’. For a further account that contrasts the two, see David B. Burrell, *Knowing the Unknowable God: Ibn-Sina, Maimonides, Aquinas* (Notre Dame, IN: University of Notre Dame Press, 1987), esp. 47; Rolnick, *Analogical Possibilities*, 153–69 comments on this saying that Burrell becomes less “apophatic” when confronted with analyzing Maimonides’ extreme equivocal predication.

⁵⁰ *ST*, I, q. 13, a. 5.

⁵¹ Lyttkens, *The Analogy Between God and the World*, 215–41; Klubertanz, *St. Thomas Aquinas on Analogy*, 7–17; Montagnes, *The Doctrine of the Analogy of Being According to Thomas Aquinas*, 120–55; McInerney, *The Logic of Analogy*, 3–31.

(*proportionem ad unum*)’ as when ‘healthy’ is ‘predicated of medicine and urine in relation and in proportion to the health of a body, of which the former is the sign and the latter the cause’.⁵² (To avoid confusion with this translation which seems to indicate that the former [as medicine] is the sign and the latter [as urine] is the cause, the end of the *corpus* of this article, as well as other places in Thomas, explicitly states that the *urine is the sign*, while the *medicine is the cause*.⁵³) This we find hearkens back to Aristotelian *pros hen* (πρὸς ἓν) analogy,⁵⁴ where what is analogous is common to several and, despite there being no single truth toward which these analogates point toward, there is still *some* nature (φύσις) towards which it refers.⁵⁵ Thus, following Aristotle, analogical unity for Thomas is defined by the *ad unum* relation,⁵⁶ which he explicitly emphasizes further in the sixth article with reference to the *per prius* and *per posterius* designation. That is, names are predicated of many with an analogical reference to some one thing, which ‘must be placed in the definition of them all’.⁵⁷ In so doing, names are ‘applied primarily (*per prius*) to that which is put in the definition of such other things, and secondarily (*per posterius*) to these others according as they approach more or less to that first’.⁵⁸ Thomas refers back to the *sanus* example to explain that the ‘one’ thing to which urine and medicine relate is the ‘health of the animal’. Despite Cajetan’s analysis, Thomas does not care to analyse whether or not these terms are more ‘intrinsic’ or ‘extrinsic’ here, for what is

⁵² *ST*, I, q. 13, a. 5. The type of analogy here is a kind of equivocation, but a deliberate equivocation (as opposed to equivocation by chance, *a casu*), or *aequivoca a consilio*. Thomas includes analogy within equivocation broadly conceived in *Ibid.*, I, q. 13, a. 10 ad 4; Ashworth, “Analogy and Equivocation in Thirteenth-Century Logic,” 108n.74. The conception dates back to Boethius and Simplicius is broken down into similitude, proportion, from one (*ab uno*), and to one (*ad unum*), as explained in *Ibid.*, 101–2; McInerny, *Aquinas and Analogy*, 92–3. Aquinas only focuses on the last of these two, however his division of analogy into many-to-one and one to another as cause and effect do not fit isomorphically within this distinction (Ashworth, “Analogy and Equivocation in Thirteenth-Century Logic,” 122–23).

⁵³ *ST*, I, q. 13, a. 6; a. 10. Cf. *ScG*, I, c. 34, n. 2; *ST*, I–II, q. 20, a. 3 ad 3; *De principiis naturae ad fratrem Silvestrum* as contained in Thomas Aquinas, *An Introduction to the Philosophy of Nature*, trans. and ed. R. A. Kocourek (St. Paul: North Central, 1948), c. 6.

⁵⁴ Aristotle, *Metaphysics*, 7.4.1030b1. In translation: Aristotle, *Metaphysics*, trans. Hugh Lawson-Tancred, Reprinted (London: Penguin Books, 1998), 181.

⁵⁵ Lyttkens, *The Analogy Between God and the World*, 52, 58. See also White, *Talking About God*, 59–60; Rocca, *Speaking the Incomprehensible God*, 79, 84–5.

⁵⁶ *In Meta.*, VII, 4.1337; Montagnes, *The Doctrine of the Analogy of Being According to Thomas Aquinas*, 44; Rocca, *Speaking the Incomprehensible God*, 139–41.

⁵⁷ *ST*, I, q. 13, a. 6.

⁵⁸ *Ibid.*

at issue is the degrees ('more or less') of the *relation* of the things to the one, primary instance.

It is important to recognize what Thomas is *not* saying here. Despite these examples having three things (health of body, medicine, and urine), one should not be confused with his statements elsewhere which speak about a relation of two things to a third, as in *De Potentia* and the *Summa Contra Gentiles*.⁵⁹ In these examples, Thomas is explicitly rejecting this model of analogy, and in the *Contra Gentiles*, he actually rejects the model outlined above when stated in the following way: 'with reference to one health we say that an animal is healthy as the subject of health, medicine is healthy as its cause, food as its preserver, urine as its sign'.⁶⁰ Thomas rejects this particular formulation because it assumes that one is—univocally—positing something prior to God under which the two subjects have a relation.⁶¹ Rather than rejecting this option *tout court* in the *Summa Theologica*, Thomas instead reconfigures it along the lines of participation (i.e. 'more and less') and especially causality, as will soon be clear.

This second example states that things are said analogically 'as one thing is proportionate to another, thus "healthy" is said of medicine and animal, since medicine is the *cause* of health in the animal body'.⁶² In the same way, because we only name God from creatures, analogy provides logic of the 'reflexive reversal' such that 'whatever is said of God and creatures, is said according to the relation of a creature to God as its principle and cause, wherein all perfections of things pre-exist excellently'.⁶³ Analogy, Thomas adds, is a 'mean' between pure univocation and pure equivocation. Accordingly, analogous speech is the way in which creatures can speak about

⁵⁹ *De Pot.*, q. 7, a. 7; *ScG*, I, c. 34, nn. 3–4.

⁶⁰ *ScG*, I, c. 34, n. 2.

⁶¹ *ScG*, I, c. 34, n. 4; similarly in *De Pot.*, q. 7, a. 7. Cf. *De Ver.*, q. 23, a. 7 ad 10.

⁶² *ST*, I, q. 13, a. 5, my emphasis.

⁶³ *Ibid.* Cf. 'To avoid complete equivocation, then, it becomes necessary to rely upon the relation binding each effect to cause, the only link enabling us to make an accurate ascent from creature to creator. This relationship St. Thomas calls analogy, that is to say, proportion' (Étienne Gilson, *The Christian Philosophy of St. Thomas Aquinas*, trans. L. K. Shook [Notre Dame, IN: University of Notre Dame Press, 1994], 106).

God as cause of all, as the *agens analogicum*, the analogical agent.⁶⁴ Indeed, earlier when speaking about perfections in God, Thomas states that the likeness of a creature to God is not based on agreement of the form of genus or species, but according to a certain analogy.⁶⁵ The analogy is not one of proportionality in the sense of A:B::C:D, but of being *proportioned* as effects to their cause.⁶⁶ Commenting on *ST* I, q. 13, a. 5, Lyttkens remarks, ‘the fundamental ontological condition underlying the analogy between God and creation is the likeness of the effect to its cause’.⁶⁷ This is because, as Lyttkens concludes, ‘All St. Thomas’ analogies between God and the world are ultimately based on the relation of cause to effect. The likeness of an effect to its cause is the prerequisite of our knowledge and designations of God, and likewise of our conceiving creation as in relation to God. Ontologically, the analogy between God and the world is accordingly the likeness of effect to cause’.⁶⁸

Both the predicative and transcendental analogies are founded not upon the univocal, but by the creatures’ *analogical* relation to God just as an effect is proportionally like its cause. The basis for all analogy in Thomas is this causal relation, which is what the oft-quoted dictum ‘analogy is analogous’ is attempting to articulate. This locution does not have the same intention as speech being metaphorical ‘all the way down’ as one may find in Derrida’s infinite deferral of the ‘becoming-space’ of *différance*,⁶⁹ but it is an example of *analogy itself* being ordered toward one (*ad unum*), as when McNerny rightly states, “analogy” has several meanings one of which is privileged and

⁶⁴ *ST*, I, q. 13, a. 5 ad 1. This is because creation is only real for us but logical for God, what Thomas calls a mixed relation where one term is logical while the other is real (*Ibid.*, I, q. 13, a. 8). For more on this see Conor Cunningham, “Being Recalled: Life as Anamnesis,” in *Divine Transcendence and Immanence in the Work of Thomas Aquinas*, ed. Harm Goris, Herwi Rikhof, and Henk Schoot, New Series XIII (Leuven: Peeters, 2009), 59–80, esp. 61–7.

⁶⁵ *ST*, I, q. 4, a. 3 co. and ad 3.

⁶⁶ Klubertanz, *St. Thomas Aquinas on Analogy*, 48.

⁶⁷ Lyttkens, *The Analogy Between God and the World*, 287.

⁶⁸ *Ibid.*, 244. ‘In other words, as soon as it is realized that the world is created by, and has received its *esse* from, God, the causal relation follows as a matter of course’ (*Ibid.*, 267).

⁶⁹ See Jacques Derrida, “Différance,” in *Margins of Philosophy*, trans. Alan Bass (Chicago, IL: University Of Chicago Press, 1982), 1–27; and the interviews contained in Jacques Derrida, *Positions*, trans. Alan Bass (London: Athlone Press, 1981), esp. 24–29, 39–47, 79–81.

explanatory of the others'.⁷⁰ (In contrast to Derrida's *différance* we may name analogy rather the 'ordering-space' which gives intelligibility not within a static designation but is closer instead to Levinas' 'resounding' of the existents without the violence of rupture that both of these thinkers advocate.)⁷¹ Similarly, Lyttkens remarks that, despite Cajetan's (and his followers) protestations to the contrary, the analogy between God and creation is in fact 'always intrinsic, not only in analogies of attribution, but also when *analogia unius ad alterum* is characterized as an analogy of relations. The same real relation—the likeness of effect to cause—is described all the time, although from different logical aspects'.⁷² This is what analogous speech attempts to do in all cases when referring to God: somehow to talk about that which is beyond all genera, to gesture therefore 'transgenerically' to the God who creates out of nothing, to the point where one realizes that even 'to create' in this sense can only be understood—*analogously*.

The type of causality here is not just formal, but also efficient and final: since every agent brings about something similar to itself (*omne agens agit sibi simile*),⁷³ causality cannot be merely the thought of as the creation of an imperfect copy imitating its prototype.⁷⁴ Because Cajetan and his followers placed too much emphasis on the Thomas of the *Sentences*⁷⁵ and *De Veritate*—that is, the early Thomas—we get a picture of Thomas who seems to advocate the analogy of proportionality, especially so in *De Veritate*, q. 2, a.

⁷⁰ See the chapter "'Analogy' is Analogous" in McNerny, *Studies in Analogy*, 95–104 at 95. McNerny's conclusion is as follows: "'Analogy" means (1) a determinate relation between quantities; e.g. double, triple, equal; (2) any relation between things, a determinate mode of which is the relation of effect to cause; (3) the relation between several meanings of a common term where all the meanings are ways of signifying the same *res significata* and one way of signifying the *res* is privileged because it enters into the explication of the others, e.g. "healthy," "being," analogy"' (Ibid., 103). My argument, following Lyttkens, Klubertanz, and Montagnes et al., is that of the three, McNerny's (2) is the normative, prime analogous instance of this which orders the other ones. For McNerny, the phrase goes as far back as McNerny, *The Logic of Analogy*, 4.

⁷¹ Cf. Levinas, *Otherwise Than Being*, 42–3.

⁷² Lyttkens, *The Analogy Between God and the World*, 335.

⁷³ *In IV Sent.*, d. 1, q. 1, a. 4 ad 4; *ST*, I, q. 3, a. 3, obj 2; q. 4, a. 3; q. 6, a. 1; q. 19, aa. 2, 4; *De Pot.*, q. 7, a. 1 ad 8. See the following insightful study: Philipp Rosemann, *Omne Agens Agit Sibi Simile: A "Repetition" of Scholastic Metaphysics* (Leuven: Leuven University Press, 1996), esp. 221–352 on Aquinas.

⁷⁴ Cf. Te Velde, *Participation and Substantiality in Thomas Aquinas*, 95–6.

⁷⁵ Montagnes, *The Doctrine of the Analogy of Being According to Thomas Aquinas*, 35–6.

11 where the formulation is exactly of this kind.⁷⁶ However, as Montagnes (and Lyttkens and Klubertanz)⁷⁷ have pointed out, not only was this an early formulation of Thomas, but he never again returns to it in his mature writings. In these early formulations, Montagnes observes that ‘Thomas accepts the same formalist conception according to which the principal relation of beings to God is that of imitation, but he grasps the danger that it presents: more or less to confuse the creature with the creator and to succumb to the univocity to which our conceptual processes incline us’.⁷⁸ Obviously, Thomas would not flee towards equivocality to solve this dilemma and thus sunder the predicative and transcendental ability to speak about God. Instead, the solution rests in the fact that he

had to conceive being no longer as form but as act, and causality no longer as the likeness of the copy to the model but as the dependence of one being upon another being which produces it. Now this is exactly what efficient causality implies: exercised by a being in act, it makes a new being exist in act, which being is not confounded with the first, since the effect and the cause each exist on its own account, but which communicates with it in the act, since the act of the agent becomes that of the patient. At the same time the act is that which the effect has in common with the cause and that by which it is not identified with it. Thus, it is by a veritable communication of being that God produces creatures and creative causality establishes between beings and God

⁷⁶ ‘Consequently, it must be said that knowledge is predicated neither entirely univocally nor yet purely equivocally of God’s knowledge and ours. Instead, it is predicated analogously, or, in other words, according to a proportion. Since an agreement according to proportion can happen in two ways, two kinds of community can be noted in analogy. There is a certain agreement between things having a proportion to each other from the fact that they have a determinate distance between each other or some other relation to each other, like the proportion which the number two has to unity in as far as it is the double of unity. Again, the agreement is occasionally noted not between two things which have a proportion between them, but rather between two related proportions—for example, six has something in common with four because six is two times three, just as four is two times two. The first type of agreement is one of proportion; the second, of proportionality’ (*De Ver.*, q. 2, a. 11). In this regard, Puntel sees Thomas as following Aristotle’s definition and maintains that proportionality has the final word in Thomas, and so he sees the work of Montagnes and Fabro as contradictory to what he himself sees in Thomas. See *Analogie Und Geschichtlichkeit*, 16, esp. 287–91. This is due to Puntel’s emphasis on the ‘logic’ in ‘analogic’, for, as he says, metaphysics without logic is unthinkable (*Ibid.*, 5). I maintain, however, that Lyttkens, Klubertanz, Montagnes et al. have rightly shown that while this formulation does show up in Thomas (see references in the next footnote), that it should in no way be held as normative.

⁷⁷ Lyttkens, *The Analogy Between God and the World*, 323–9, 433–41, 457, and esp. 474–5; Klubertanz, *St. Thomas Aquinas on Analogy*, 94.

⁷⁸ Montagnes, *The Doctrine of the Analogy of Being According to Thomas Aquinas*, 78. For a fuller account by Montagnes, see pp. 63–77.

the indispensable bond of participation so that there might be an analogy of relation between them.⁷⁹

Te Velde describes this kind of causality such that ‘the effect itself has the dignity of a cause’.⁸⁰ In the *De Potentia* text, Thomas describes this causality in terms of the art to the artist, or, according to his example, as the material house akin to the house in the mind of the builder. Cunningham helpfully comments on this example, saying that ‘we are, in effect, left thinking causality more in terms of artistic intention. This does afford us a greater knowledge of causality, but we are left comprehending it less—since efficient causation cannot now be simply imagined in terms of power, for it is conjoined with finality, the more ultimate reason for causation’.⁸¹ Provided with the analogy of an ‘artistic intention of an end’, Cunningham remarks that only a deliberate effect of the artist created in love is able to sustain creation in an intimate way to give creatures the dignity of secondary causality. Naturalistic modes of causation—that is, univocal causality—do not bestow the dignity of freedom, for they cannot also think the final cause as loving such that the creature is unified (yet *distinctly* so, unconfusedly) to the Creator in the artistic end known as the beatific vision.⁸² In this way, Thomas says that ‘the nature of being patient, moved, or caused must always have an order to the agent or mover, seeing that the effect is always perfected by its cause and dependent thereon: so that it is ordered to it as the cause of its perfection’.⁸³ Causality where the ‘act of the agent becomes that of the patient’ is articulated in terms of the *participation* that the patient has in the agent, that is, the effect’s dignity as it participates in the cause.

Participation is inherently linked to causality in Thomas. ‘Even where participation is not explicitly defined in terms of causality, a relation to a cause is normally implied’.⁸⁴ Participation, taking a ‘part’ of something,⁸⁵ names not

⁷⁹ Ibid.

⁸⁰ Te Velde, *Participation and Substantiality in Thomas Aquinas*, 161.

⁸¹ Cunningham, *Genealogy of Nihilism*, 187.

⁸² Ibid., 187–8.

⁸³ *De Pot.*, q. 7, a. 10.

⁸⁴ Te Velde, *Participation and Substantiality in Thomas Aquinas*, 92n.1 and 95ff.

⁸⁵ In German this is readily apparent etymologically as *die Teilnahme*. For Aquinas’s discussion of participation, see *Expositio libri Boetii De Hebdomadibus*, lect. 2, n. 24. In translation: Thomas Aquinas, *An Exposition of the “On the Hebdomads” of Boethius*, trans.

a quality as much as a *qualification* of being, that is, of having one's being in a different way than God 'has' being. For God's *esse* is God's very nature (*per essentia*);⁸⁶ whereas creature's have their being *per participationem*.⁸⁷ For God to be *ipsum esse subsistens* means that, as subsistent being itself, all perfections are included in God as *actus purus* while creatures are subjects-in-potency who participate in that which is pure act. Hence, according to Montagnes, 'the primacy of act and the priority of efficient causality go hand in hand. Exemplarity does not disappear; it is subordinated to efficiency. In sum, participation is presented as the communication of act to a subject in potency'.⁸⁸ Creatures in potency have a share in being, which means not only do they have their being by participation, but they are also good by participation in the first cause which is the Good.⁸⁹ Thomas highlights this notion of participation in the first cause when speaking about God as the analogous cause (*agens analogicum*). God cannot be the univocal cause of everything, for then a univocal cause would only be the cause of itself (since it is contained in the species), but must therefore be a non-univocal agent such that, as it causes all things analogically, creatures are placed underneath this cause in the same way that individuals participate in the species.⁹⁰ This is not to be understood as the less universal participating in the more universal, but as the participation of the concrete in the abstract.⁹¹

A crucial point must be made here regarding the level of participation: creation does not participate directly in the essence of God, for nothing can know or participate directly in God's essence, as is clear in Thomas.⁹² What

Janice L. Schultz and Edward A. Synan (Washington, D. C.: The Catholic University of America Press, 2001), 19–21. For a helpful commentary, see Te Velde, *Participation and Substantiality in Thomas Aquinas*, 8–34, esp. 11–12, 29, 33–4.

⁸⁶ David Burrell articulates this as, 'to be God is to be to-be'. Burrell, *Aquinas: God and Action*, 25–6.

⁸⁷ *ST*, I, q. 4, a. 3 ad 3; q. 3, a. 4; q. 3, a. 8, q. 44, a. 1; *De Pot.*, q. 3, a. 5; *ScG*, I, c. 33; c. 22; Lyttkens, *The Analogy Between God and the World*, 256.

⁸⁸ Montagnes, *The Doctrine of the Analogy of Being According to Thomas Aquinas*, 40.

⁸⁹ Aquinas, *ST*, I, q. 6, aa. 1–2; q. 6, a. 3 s. c. and co.; q. 5, a. 2; q. 6, a. 1 ad 2; Te Velde, *Participation and Substantiality in Thomas Aquinas*, 33–4, 64–5.

⁹⁰ *ST*, I, q. 13, a. 5 ad 1.

⁹¹ *In De Hebd.*, lect. 2, n. 24 (p. 21); Te Velde, *Participation and Substantiality in Thomas Aquinas*, 79–80.

⁹² *ST*, I, q. 1, a. 7 ad 1; q. 2, a. 1; q. 2, a. 2 ad 3, etc.; *ScG*, I, c. 11, n. 5; c. 12, n. 7; III, cc. 51–6, etc.

participates is being itself,⁹³ not directly in God, but in the divine similitude, ‘which precisely as similitude is distinguished from the divine essence itself, and consequently in itself distinguished into a multitude of distinct “similitudes” according to the differences of being (*differentia entis*)’.⁹⁴ However, this does not mean that there is a double participation or double creation in God. Rather, as Te Velde puts it:

the divine cause expresses itself in its effect *as distinguished from itself* and in each distinct creature the divine cause is distinguished from itself in a distinct way in accordance with the appropriate idea of this creature. So the negation in the effect of the identity of essence and *esse* in God is included in the likeness each creature has of God. This is exactly the reason of calling the likeness between God and creatures “analogous”: since it is not in spite of their difference that they are similar in a certain respect. They are different from one another in what they have in common, the one has *being* in identity with its essence, the other has *being* as distinct from its essence.⁹⁵

Thus, the language of participation communicates the degrees of ontological diversity that creation has a share in with its relationship to its Creator. One way to express this is that participation reveals the ‘difference in unity’ or ‘identity in difference’ of this relationship.⁹⁶ Another facet of this is expressed most clearly when speaking of the divine perfections, for just as all the perfections are contained simply and perfectly in God, ‘the nature proper to each thing consists in some degree of participation in the divine perfection’.⁹⁷ Human persons themselves stand in a privileged place within creation due to the possession of an intellect which has the capability of reflecting the divine intellect. So those who have more charity ‘will have a fuller participation in the light of glory’ for the reason that the increase of charity signals the increase of desire, ‘and desire in a certain degree makes the one desiring apt and prepared to receive the object desired’.⁹⁸ That is, there is a ‘longing of the effect back to its cause’ which stems from the desire and need for salvation,⁹⁹

⁹³ Te Velde, *Participation and Substantiality in Thomas Aquinas*, 29.

⁹⁴ *Ibid.*, 115–16.

⁹⁵ *Ibid.*, 116, emphasis in original.

⁹⁶ *Ibid.*, 206, 280, respectively. Or: ‘differently the same’ (Te Velde, *Aquinas on God*, 102, 118).

⁹⁷ *ST*, I, q. 14, a. 6.

⁹⁸ *ST*, I, q. 12, a. 6. We also see degrees of wisdom spoken of in *ST*, I, q. 9, a. 1 ad 2.

⁹⁹ Lyttkens, *The Analogy Between God and the World*, 481.

motivated by the desire for the Good as beginning and final end.¹⁰⁰ Causality now exhibits not only its efficient character, but its final mode as well.

The end of creation is found in its beginning, expressed analogically in terms of a real participation in the divine similitude of Being in God. This is afforded by the unity found in the concept of being, but also, states Montagnes, in 'the real unity of the Principle of being. Hence, the structure of analogy and that of participation are rigorously parallel: they correspond to each other as the conceptual aspect and the real aspect of the unity of being'.¹⁰¹ With reference to the real diversity of beings, the analogy of being is not meant to act as a 'stand-in' the proportional unity of a concept, for this would subsume God 'under' a concept (in Thomas' language, 'genera' or 'species'); rather, '[the analogy of being] is supposed to reproduce the unity of order which ties beings up with their Principle. Thus and thus only does the realistic and critical character of the theory of the analogy of being show up within Thomas's philosophy'.¹⁰² 'Critical', because analogous speech paves its way between untenably univocal speech on the one hand and impossible, hyper-fallibly equivocal speech on the other; equally 'realistic', because such speech gestures toward the real aspect of created reality itself as having a participated 'share' in the Triune God. It is this latter aspect that will always be egregiously missing from the cry of the logician aiming to assert that analogy is 'purely' or 'only' semantic.¹⁰³ Again, both disciplines need each other insofar as they recognize the order of things themselves in the reflexive reversal of knowledge which we have called analogy.

So far in this chapter I have spoken about the analogy of being with regard to Thomas and the analogously ordered ways in which it functions in his primary texts. We know, however, that the way in which Thomas *uses* the

¹⁰⁰ Te Velde, *Participation and Substantiality in Thomas Aquinas*, 30–1.

¹⁰¹ Montagnes, *The Doctrine of the Analogy of Being According to Thomas Aquinas*, 91.

¹⁰² *Ibid.*

¹⁰³ Similarly, Rocca says that regarding the conclusions that Aquinas comes to as to why predication cannot be univocal between creatures and God, 'The conclusion is epistemological and semantic, but the reasons themselves are various ontological truths about God that Aquinas has previously established to his own satisfaction' (Rocca, *Speaking the Incomprehensible God*, 176). Moreover, the reason why predication cannot also be purely equivocal follows the same logic: it would destroy both epistemological and ontological reason (*ibid.*, 176-80).

Boethian ‘definition’ of the person is also analogous, speaking of angelic, human, and divine persons all as ‘individual substances of a rational nature’. But does Thomas actually speak this way explicitly about the person itself as predicated analogously? In a much-overlooked passage in his commentary on the *Sentences*, we see that in fact Thomas’ logic is consistent: ‘*Person* is said of God and creatures neither univocally nor equivocally but analogously; and so far as to the thing signified it is said primarily (*per prius*) of God than of creatures, but as far as the mode of signification it is said the other way around (*e converso* [i.e. *per posterius*]), as it is also of all the other names which are said to be of God and creatures by analogy’.¹⁰⁴ We see here the common themes spoken of above regarding the *per prius et per posterius* designation tied up with discussion of the *res significata* with respect to creaturely *modi significandi*, and in this respect we see that E. J. Ashworth is quite incorrect to argue that these designations are not part and parcel of Thomas’ teaching on analogy, considering the fact that Thomas makes an explicit connection in this passage.¹⁰⁵ Moreover, because ‘person’ is said neither univocally nor equivocally of God and creatures, this is because the *analogical order* of things indicates that the three divine persons are ‘most real’ such that they are spoken of primarily (*per prius*), even though in the order of knowledge we come to know our biological parents (*per posterius*) as the first persons whom we encounter. God is the primary analogate regarding *esse*, viz., God is *ipsum esse subsistens* while creatures *have* their *esse* by participation; but we also see co-extensively that the divine persons are primarily analogous for human and angelic persons as well. The Thomistic *analogia entis* is thus always already an *analogia personae*.

¹⁰⁴ *In I Sent.*, d. 25, q. 1, a. 2, co., translation mine. The text reads: ‘*Respondeo dicendum, quod persona dicitur de Deo et creaturis, non univoce nec aequivoce, sed secundum analogiam; et quantum ad rem significatam per prius est in Deo quam in creaturis, sed quantum ad modum significandi est e converso, sicut est etiam de omnibus aliis nominibus quae de Deo et creaturis analogice dicuntur*’.

¹⁰⁵ Ashworth, “Signification and Modes of Signifying in Thirteenth-Century Logic,” 60; idem, “Analogy and Equivocation in Thirteenth-Century Logic,” 122. Aquinas also would contradict Ashworth’s reading in *Comp. Theol.*, I, c. 27. Here is another place where Aquinas speaks of analogy where the thing signified (*res significatam*) points primarily (*per prius*) to God, but the order is different to that of creatures. ‘*Modi significandi*’ is not *explicitly* stated here, but it appears to be assumed with the God-creature distinction made.

We have come a long way from the previous discussion of the accusative and accusation. In that discussion we saw that Levinas' rejection of what he saw as Being's 'totalizing' aspect, coupled with his rejection of persons as analogous (with regard to Husserl's transcendental analogy of apperception), piled upon misunderstandings of the tradition of metaphysics—all led to a violent reality where, in order to respect the alterity of the person, the person seemed to disappear altogether in unavailable anonymity. Accordingly, 'standing accused' was thus transposed into a different key: the accusative case is more properly thought of as the causative case where that which is 'in the accusative' is the patient of a (causal) agent. To stand accused is to be, in word, *caused*. But the causality spoken of in Thomas is not univocal or material, but *analogous*, which is not simply a word used to invoke 'not univocal' as much as it clarifies and contains many analogous meanings within itself, just as St Irenaeus' use of 'recapitulation' served to encapsulate at least eleven meanings (indicating its own kind of analogous usage).¹⁰⁶

As a summary of this section, to be caused analogously refers to the following: 1) the order of knowledge versus the real ontological order, which, when led by the hand in the way Thomas teaches, upholds the dignity of the otherness of God in that we cannot know God's essence in itself; 2) a radical expansive broadening of causality to include its intimate *efficient* and *final* modes, indicating God as the first and final Good who motivates and calls us toward God's own delight;¹⁰⁷ 3) the participatory reality that analogous speech refers to such that God is primary while creatures secondarily participate in this subsistent *ipsum esse*, the 'I am who I am';¹⁰⁸ 4) lastly, the fact that *as*

¹⁰⁶ Osborn, *Irenaeus of Lyons*, 97–8.

¹⁰⁷ Cf. *ST*, I, q. 13, a. 11 ad 2: "This name 'good' is the principal name of God in so far as He is a cause, but not absolutely; for existence considered absolutely comes before the idea of cause." But from the standpoint of creatures (which of course is inescapable, thankfully), the following must always be kept in mind: 'The attribute "being" does not name God prior to the distinction between infinite and finite being. It signifies God as the cause of the being [of] all things, as finite beings are not intelligible unless their being is understood as derived from one who is its being. God is known as being on the basis of the intelligible relation between cause and effect, a relation in which the common factor cannot be abstracted from the distinction between cause and effect' (Te Velde, *Participation and Substantiality in Thomas Aquinas*, 194).

¹⁰⁸ While Jamie Smith initially provides a critique of "participation" language in response to Catherine Pickstock here: James K. A. Smith, *Speech and Theology: Language and the Logic of Incarnation* (London: Routledge, 2002), 170–6; the following essay tends to place the stress in the wrong place regarding Plato: idem, "Will the Real Plato Please Stand Up?: Participation

cause, we actually know nothing about analogous causation in the way that creatures know causation because God is eminent as the uncaused cause of all out of nothing.¹⁰⁹ Following here upon Thomas' and Dionysius' reliance on the *triplex via*, we cannot rest with speaking of causality as we think of it, which is typically material; rather, to stand accused as a person means to radically participate in God's Being which is *simultaneously* a Triunity of persons, each subsistent in the one nature. There is no way to derive the three from the one or the one from the three (except through faith in the revelation of the persons),¹¹⁰ but both must be thought in a reduplication (*redoublement*), and it is in this sense that we have a co-extensive analogy of being and analogy of the person. Our own personhood only *is* insofar as it participates in this

Versus Incarnation," in *Radical Orthodoxy and the Reformed Tradition: Creation, Covenant, and Participation* (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2005), 61–72. This is understandable, however, in light of the fact that Pickstock and Milbank themselves tend to overstress Plato at times, even though they fully acknowledge it is more of the neo-Platonism that Thomas Aquinas inherited that is what is more at stake. That being said, Smith has admitted (in personal correspondence) that he has changed his mind on the issue of participation, primarily influenced by the following two works of Hans Boersma: *Nouvelle Théologie and Sacramental Ontology: A Return to Mystery* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2009); *Heavenly Participation: The Weaving of a Sacramental Tapestry* (Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 2011). The first place in print this change has been noted can be found in James K. A. Smith, *The Fall of Interpretation: Philosophical Foundations for a Creational Hermeneutic*, 2nd ed. (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2012), 19n.14. So in that sense, the forthcoming article may already be out of date: Brendan Peter Triffett, "Processio and the Place of Ontic Being: John Milbank and James K. A. Smith on Participation," *Heythrop Journal* (forthcoming 2013), accessed online: <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/j.1468-2265.2012.00770.x/pdf>.

Notwithstanding, I am sympathetic to the accounts of the 'New Plato' that Smith is reacting against (see esp. the recent account self described as a 'third Plato' in D.C. Schindler, *Plato's Critique of Impure Reason: On Goodness and Truth in the Republic*, [Washington, D. C.: The Catholic University of America Press, 2008]). Regarding Radical Orthodoxy, it would have been more fair for Smith (in his 'Will the Reall Plato Stand Up?' essay) to have also referenced Cunningham, *Genealogy of Nihilism*, 181–8, or any of the other works on Thomistic analogy which develop the usage along Neoplatonic contours, to which those sympathetic to recent reconstructions of a more Neoplatonic-Aristotelian Thomas are indebted. E.g., Cornelio Fabro, *La Nozione Metafisica Di Partecipazione Secondo S. Tommaso d'Aquino* (Torino: Società Editrice Internazionale, 1950); Cornelio Fabro, "The Intensive Hermeneutics of Thomistic Philosophy: The Notion of Participation," trans. B. M. Bonansea, *The Review of Metaphysics* 27, no. 3 (1974): 449–91; L.-B. Geiger, *La Participation Dans La Philosophie De Saint Thomas d'Aquin*, 2nd ed. (Paris: Vrin, 1953); Clarke, "The Meaning of Participation in St. Thomas." Recently, the following article has proved crucially helpful: D. C. Schindler, "What's the Difference? On the Metaphysics of Participation in a Christian Context," *The Saint Anselm Journal* 3, no. 1 (Fall 2005): 1–27. The main idea here is that many, many centuries *after* Plato, these ideas were transformed via Proclus, Dionysius, and then Thomas so that it was never a matter of contrasting 'incarnation' to 'participation', but the creatures' non-competitive participation in the Incarnate one has been achieved in an entirely orthodox Christian manner.

¹⁰⁹ To clarify, this is not a 'proper' name of God, but a description of God through God's effects similar to Thomas' second way (*ST*, I, q. 2, a. 3). The most proper name of God is, of course, 'I am who I am' (*ST*, I, q. 13, a. 11).

¹¹⁰ *ST*, I, q. 32, a. 1.

fullness of this ever-greater reality, but our participation in this analogous cause is not like that of billiard balls and falling dominoes, but like that of art in the mind of the artist. God alone contains the fullness of being and the fullness of persons as Father, Son, Holy Spirit.

b. *Analogy of the Concept?: An Analogy of Judgment in Reply to Christos Yannaras*

Despite what I have written above, a recently-translated work entitled *Person and Eros* by Eastern Orthodox philosopher Christos Yannaras would claim that the exact opposite is the case for Thomas Aquinas.¹¹¹ Based upon a much-expanded 4th-edition of Yannaras' doctoral thesis with the title of 'The Ontological Content of the Theological Notion of Personhood',¹¹² this work develops a very intriguing blend of Eastern Orthodox tradition (Dionysius, Maximus, Palamas) with such recent European existentialists as Jean-Paul Sartre and especially Martin Heidegger. While this is not the space to provide a detailed exegesis of this highly interesting and provocative work,¹¹³ what interests us are Yannaras' comments in a chapter called 'On Analogy and Hierarchy'.¹¹⁴ The main thrust of the work is to combat the 'conceptualization' of 'the West', and in every case, what comes from 'the East' by way of Orthodoxy has the right tools to supplant Western ideas which Yannaras argues lead to Atheism. Despite the all-too-tidy division of what is 'East' versus what is 'West', and despite his reliance on such obviously Western figures as Heidegger into whose form Yannaras injects the content of

¹¹¹ Christos Yannaras, *Person and Eros*, trans. Norman Russell (Brookline, MA: Holy Cross Orthodox Press, 2007). See the following article that captures *in nuce* what I am doing here in this section, but in response to Zizioulas: Ralph Del Colle, "'Person' and 'Being' in John Zizioulas' Trinitarian Theology: Conversations with Thomas Torrance and Thomas Aquinas," *Scottish Journal of Theology* 54, no. 1 (2001): 70–86.

¹¹² Christos Yannaras, "The Ontological Content of the Theological Notion of Personhood" (Thesis, University of Salonika, 1970).

¹¹³ For a helpful distillation of Yannaras' argument from his doctoral thesis, see Rowan Williams, "The Theology of Personhood: A Study of the Thought of Christos Yannaras," *Sobornost* 6, no. 6 (1972): 415–30 at 417–21.

¹¹⁴ Yannaras, *Person and Eros*, 201–20 (§§70–4).

Orthodox voices,¹¹⁵ the primary constructive heart of the book is laudable and helpfully articulates a ‘theological personalism’ that cannot be dismissed. In this section I will provide a summary of Yannaras’ argument on analogy and hierarchy and then illustrate not only how he misreads Thomas Aquinas, but also how much of the internal debate amongst Thomists would very much agree with Yannaras’ central insights which we will consider under the aspects of ‘analogy of the concept’ versus ‘analogy of judgment’.

Rowan Williams remarks that Yannaras’ project, ‘like any attempt to explicate the relation of finite to infinite, is inevitably an essay in *analogy*’.¹¹⁶ That is, the issue is: how do we speak of divine persons when we only initially know other human persons? For Yannaras, the issue comes down to *personal existence*: for God it is total presence (*παρουσία, parousia*) while for human persons our situation is one of absence (*ἀπουσία, apousia*)¹¹⁷ until that eschatological time when we become “‘all *prosōpon*’—“all person.””¹¹⁸ The person is primarily a *relation*,¹¹⁹ to the extent that all talk of nature or essence (*ousia*) must be denounced as ‘essentialist’ and therefore ‘rationalistic’; instead, he proposes existential categories of presence (*parousia*) and follows Heidegger such that the person ‘ek-sists’, standing outside one’s nature in ecstasy toward the other.¹²⁰ All the measures the ‘West’ might make, whether with regard to space, time, or objects, are all properly understood rather as

¹¹⁵ Rowan Williams remarks: ‘as to the use made of Heidegger’s system and terminology throughout, one may be forgiven for wondering whether it is perhaps a little uncritical: it is reminiscent of the use made of Hegel by Russian theologians at the end of the 19th and the beginning of the 20th century’ (Williams, “The Theology of Personhood: A Study of the Thought of Christos Yannaras,” 426). As one example, Yannaras follows Heidegger completely when he quotes him to the effect that Hegel’s ‘concept’, Nietzsche’s ‘eternal return of the same’, and Thomas Aquinas’s *actus purus* are all physicalistics such that ‘metaphysics steadfastly remains physics’. While this is true for Hegel and Nietzsche, this is of course fallacious with regard to Thomas. Yannaras, *Person and Eros*, 225 (§75); citing Martin Heidegger, *Einführung in Die Metaphysik* (Tübingen: Niemeyer, 1958), 14.

¹¹⁶ Williams, “The Theology of Personhood: A Study of the Thought of Christos Yannaras,” 425.

¹¹⁷ Williams helpfully puts it this way, *ibid.*

¹¹⁸ Yannaras, *Person and Eros*, 293 (§95).

¹¹⁹ *Ibid.*, 5–6 (§1).

¹²⁰ *Ibid.*, 19–20 (§6), 27–8 (§8), 262–7 (§86), 273–4 (§88). For the Heideggerian account of the ‘ek-sistence of man’, see “Letter on Humanism” in Martin Heidegger, *Basic Writings: Ten Key Essays Plus the Introduction to Being and Time*, ed. David Farrell Krell, Rev. and expanded ed (London: Routledge, 1993), 217–65, esp. 228ff.

primarily *personal*: space is personal absence (*apousia*), time is personal presence (*parousia*), and objects or things are personal deeds (*pragmata*).¹²¹

According to Yannaras, the Orthodox understanding of analogy begins in its preference for Plato over Aristotle. While Aristotle's conception of analogy is a comparison of quantities, dimensions, proportionality of arithmetical relations, and the measurable aspect of relations,¹²² for Plato analogy 'represents the *logos* of the fitness of the eyes to receive light or the fitness of the mind to recognize the good. Plato's understanding of analogy... is an iconic relation, a relation between image and that which is depicted, and the knowledge of this relation is a dynamic fact which presupposes the mind's aptitude for cognition and the mind's participation in that which is depicted through its image'.¹²³ Fast-forwarding to the Middle Ages, Yannaras follows an article by Gottlieb Söhngen to the effect that all medieval scholastics defined analogy in the $a:b::c:d$ formula, as in $2:3::4:6$.¹²⁴ In this case, if 6 were the unknown quantity, simple algebra could be used to determine its value. 'Thus the relation between beings and Being, and between Being and God, may be expressed according to the Scholastics with the precision of mathematical analogy: beings : Being = Being : x , where x , represents the Cause of Being, namely, God. In this case, the analogical participation of beings in Being is the key for understanding the analogical participation of the Being of beings in its divine Cause, and God, the Cause of Being, is defined *analogously* in relation to *Being*, the cause of beings'.¹²⁵ The Scholastics thus exhaust being because they have not an experiential analogy, but a transcendent analogy which operates and is purely confined to the predicative 'intellectual extension' of 'unity', 'goodness', 'truth', etc.¹²⁶ Put bluntly, 'Scholastic analogy ignores the *personal* existence of God, the Triad of the divine persons, the mode of existence of the divine essence, which is

¹²¹ These concepts are repeated all throughout, but the central loci, respectively, are found in Yannaras, *Person and Eros*, 105–28 (§§36–45), 129–55 (§§46–55), 35–39 (§12).

¹²² *Ibid.*, 204–6 (§70).

¹²³ *Ibid.*, 202–3 (§70). Yannaras cites Plato, *Republic* 6:508c4–d9.

¹²⁴ Gottlieb Söhngen, "Analogie," in *Handbuch Theologischer Grundbegriffe*, ed. Heinrich Fries, vol. 1 (Munich: Kösel, 1962), 49–61 at 57; Yannaras, *Person and Eros*, 361n.19.

¹²⁵ Yannaras, *Person and Eros*, 209 (§70), emphasis Yannaras'.

¹²⁶ *Ibid.*, 209–10 (§70).

personal'.¹²⁷ This is because the Scholastics turned God into a transcendent 'object', 'accessible only through the subject's ability to rationalize', leaving the 'existential problem untouched', matter ontologically unexplained, and 'the origin or principle of what exists was transferred to the necessity of the things that determined essence, not to the freedom of the person, not to triadic love as the self-determination of the mode of existence'.¹²⁸

Unsurprisingly, Yannaras applies this analysis of all of the 'Scholastics', *mutatis mutandis*, to Thomas Aquinas as well. Before moving on with my exposition, it should be noted that Yannaras is no doubt influenced here on the one hand by Lossky's inability to see moments in Dionysius which pushes beyond the kataphatic-apophatic dialectic into the *via eminentia* (in this sense Lossky has waged that 'the West' is 'kataphatic');¹²⁹ and on the other hand Yannaras is completely remiss to see Thomas' very clear and pervasive indebtedness to Dionysius who takes up these three ways, especially regarding language about God and thus ontological, causal analogy, not to mention the fact that Thomas cites Dionysius as a trusted guide over 600 times in the *Summa Theologica* alone, let alone Thomas' own commentary on Dionysius' *The Divine Names*.¹³⁰ But Yannaras will not acknowledge any of this, seeing

¹²⁷ Ibid., 211 (§70), emphasis Yannaras'.

¹²⁸ Ibid., 210–11 (§70).

¹²⁹ Although it should be said that as philosopher, Yannaras is much more amenable to the Neoplatonic influence of Dionysius. See Ibid., 216, 366n.50. For Lossky's considerations of Dionysius, see Vladimir Lossky, *The Mystical Theology of the Eastern Church* (Crestwood, NY: St Vladimir's Seminary Press, 1976), 38–9, 215–16, 229–30; Vladimir Lossky, "La Notion Des 'Analogies' Chez Denys Le Pseudo-Aréopagite," *Archives d'Histoire Doctrinale Et Littéraire Du Moyen-Age* 5 (1931): 279–309. For commentary on Lossky's relationship to Dionysius and apophaticism, see Aristotle Papanikolaou, *Being with God: Trinity, Apophaticism, and Divine-Human Communion* (Notre Dame, Ind: University of Notre Dame Press, 2006), 12–25; Paul L. Gavriluk, "The Reception of Dionysius in Twentieth-Century Eastern Orthodoxy," *Modern Theology* 24, no. 4 (October 2008): 707–23 at 712–16; Charles M. Stang, *Apophysis and Pseudonymity in Dionysius the Areopagite: "No Longer I"* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2012), 153–96. For critiques of Lossky's understanding, see "Lossky, the *via negativa* and the Foundations of Theology" in Rowan Williams, *Wrestling with Angels: Conversations in Modernity*, ed. Mike Higon (London: SCM Press, 2007), 1–24. For works on the Neoplatonic heritage of Dionysius, see Christian Schäfer, *The Philosophy of Dionysius the Areopagite* (Leiden: E. J. Brill, 2006); Eric Perl, *Theophany: The Neoplatonic Philosophy of Dionysius the Areopagite* (Albany, NY: State University of New York Press, 2007); Sarah Klitenic Wear and John Dillon, *Dionysius the Areopagite and the Neoplatonist Tradition: Despoiling the Hellenes* (Aldershot: Ashgate, 2007).

¹³⁰ For Thomas' indebtedness to Denys, see O'Rourke, *Pseudo-Dionysius and the Metaphysics of Aquinas*; A. N. Williams, *The Ground of Union: Deification in Aquinas and Palamas* (New York and Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1999), 30–1, 76–7; Kevin Corrigan and Carl N. Still, "The Problem of Aquinas's Notion of *Reditio Completa* in Relation to Its Neoplatonic

Thomas along with the rest of the Scholastics as guilty of ‘*contemplation* of an impersonal absolute, which precisely because it is impersonal permits no solution other than pantheism or agnosticism’.¹³¹ Furthermore, due to these shared set of assumptions, the ‘West’ is guilty of a kataphaticism which he sees as synonymous with extreme rationalism, and in this sense is a theological nihilism¹³² that is to blame for modern atheism.¹³³ What, then, is Yannaras’ alternative?

Yannaras’ proposes instead what he calls a Byzantine version of analogy that ‘refers, as a cognitive method, to the possibility that existence can be led by the call to personal relation to the actual realization of the relation. That is to say, it refers to the analogical grades of the power of existence to participate wholly (not only intellectually) in truth’.¹³⁴ Following Dionysius’ *On the Celestial Hierarchy*, Yannaras takes up the idea of ‘analogical similarities as dissimilarities,’¹³⁵ which enables him to hold that analogy in this schema functions not ‘quantitatively-measurably’, but ‘qualitatively-iconically’.¹³⁶ The upshot here is that this introduces a dynamism which transposes the cognitive focus on objective attributes into the unique mode of the existence of personal otherness which cannot be known definitively, ‘since its “definition” is its otherness, its unique, dissimilar and unrepeatable character’; in other words, it can only be ‘depicted’ iconically.¹³⁷ If the analogical similarities involved in this approach do not indicate the possibility of personal relation, then they remain as ‘empty intellectual predicates’.¹³⁸ At this point, those familiar with debates around the *analogia entis* will wonder: but doesn’t the Fourth Lateran Council of 1215 say that there cannot be a likeness posited between the Creator and creature without there being an ‘ever greater dissimilarity’ (*maior*

Sources,” in *Being and Thought in Aquinas*, ed. Jeremiah M. Hackett, William E. Murnion, and Carl N. Still (Binghamton, NY: Global Academic Publishing, 2004), 1–15; David B. Burrell and Isabelle Moulin, “Albert, Aquinas, and Dionysius,” *Modern Theology* 24, no. 4 (October 2008): 633–49 at 637–44.

¹³¹ Yannaras, *Person and Eros*, 212 (§71).

¹³² *Ibid.*, 23 (§7).

¹³³ *Ibid.*, 248 (§82).

¹³⁴ *Ibid.*, 212–13 (§72).

¹³⁵ See *On the Celestial Hierarchy*, 2.4, in *Pseudo-Dionysius: The Complete Works*, 151 [PG 3:141c; 144a, c; 145a].

¹³⁶ Yannaras, *Person and Eros*, 213 (§72).

¹³⁷ *Ibid.*

¹³⁸ *Ibid.*, 214 (§72).

dissimilitudo) between the two? In response to such an objection, Yannaras rejects this doctrine because, according to him, ‘even in this statement dissimilarity does not refer to the otherness of the personal mode of existence. Dissimilarity coexists with similarity in a quantifiable-measurable relation. The analogy of similarities, which presupposes at the same time even greater dissimilarities, does not cease to represent objective predicates, or to constitute a quantitative comparison of objectified magnitudes’.¹³⁹

Despite the fact that the precise context of this statement from the Fourth Lateran Council is *exactly the relationship of the persons of the Trinity in relation to human persons in light of the analogical distance between the human and divine persons* (in condemnation of Joachim de Fiore), Yannaras rejects this formulation nonetheless. Joachim de Fiore insisted that, rather than understanding God as a Trinity of divine persons who simultaneously, mysteriously *is* the one God in a shared, consubstantial essence between them (and in this regard Joachim thought there was a ‘fourth thing’ in God), instead, he considered the Trinity as a kind of collective of persons, just as three human people form a group—all of which quickly lapses into a ‘tritheism’. Against this impetus, Erich Przywara is instructive, and deserves to be quoted at length:

The point of departure for the council’s verdict is thus the greatest, most profound, and most intimate mystery of revelation: the mystery of deification through “participation in the divine nature,” as children of the Father, con-formed [*mit-förmig*] to the Son, in the Spirit of the Holy Spirit;—the mystery of the redemption of the “unity” of the church as a unity with the Father who sends, in unity with the Son who is sent, and thus in unity with the Holy Spirit understood as the unity of the Father and the Son;—and hence the most proper mystery of God as the mystery of the self-communication of the tri-personal life in the personal life of the “children of God” as “members of the church.” And yet *this is precisely the point of departure into the “ever great” mystery of the “ever greater dissimilarity” between the “creator”* [emphasis added]—understood as the “Incomprehensible and Ineffable One Highest Something” [*Unbegreiflichen und Unsagbaren Einen Höchsten Etwas*] (whose intimacy to itself is that of “Father, Son, and

¹³⁹ Ibid., 214–15 (§72).

Holy Spirit”)—and the “creature,” which in itself is “one people of many persons, and one church of many believers.”¹⁴⁰

That is, precisely where the Triune God is communicated *as personal*, from the creaturely standpoint, this is where the ‘ever greater dissimilarity’ arises. Przywara puts it even more starkly in a work written fifteen years later on the Old and New Covenants [*Alter und Neuer Bund*]:

The inner-divine rhythm [*Rhythmus*] of the “opposition of relations” wherein the Father is called “Father” “in regard” [*im Bezug*] to the Son, the Son is called “Son” “in regard” to the Father, and the Holy Spirit “Spirit” “in regard” to the Father and Son,—this unfathomably incomprehensible rhythm [*Schwingen*] of the entire “in regard [to]” in the mystery of the Godhead is the depth behind the entire rhythm of the “in regard” in the material “regard” between the Old and New Covenants, and in this the formal “regard” between “no matter how great a similarity” and the “ever greater dissimilarity” between Creator and creation in this material relation [*Bezug*] (and in any possible relation generally).¹⁴¹

The reality of God as coextensively—and mysteriously—one *and* personal underlies, logically, the real relation between creatures to their creator, always within a finite regard of ‘ever greater dissimilarity’. Yannaras, however, overlooks this full context and debate involved between the rejection of Joachim and the affirmation of Peter Lombard’s position by the Fourth Lateran Council.

Instead, Yannaras confronts what he sees as necessarily ‘impersonal’ in the ‘West’ with, as just mentioned above, what he calls the ‘Byzantine’ version of analogy. In this he draws support from Dionysius the Areopagite. Thus, according to Yannaras, the Byzantine version of analogy takes ‘the objective similarities themselves as real dissimilarities. That is to say, it refers the dissimilarity to the otherness of the personal mode of existence, to the priority which existence has in relation to the understanding of objective essences’.¹⁴²

¹⁴⁰ Erich Przywara, “Reichweite Der Analogie Als Katholischer Grundform,” *Scholastik* 15 (1940): 339–62, 508–32; as reprinted in Erich Przywara, *Analogia Entis. Metaphysik. Ur-Struktur Und All-Rhythmus*, vol. 3 (Einsiedeln: Johannes-Verlag, 1962), 247–301 at 253–4. I am following the forthcoming translation from John Betz and David Bentley Hart (Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 2013).

¹⁴¹ Erich Przywara, *Alter Und Neuer Bund. Theologie Der Stunde* (Wien: Herold Verlag, 1955), 539, translation mine.

¹⁴² Yannaras, *Person and Eros*, 215 (§72).

Analogy in this vision is therefore a ‘*hierarchy* of cognitive-existential powers and perfections’, which is always registered in an existential—not ‘static’, i.e. ‘Western’—key.¹⁴³ Indeed, Yannaras labels his understanding of Byzantine analogy as the very difference which separates itself from the West, ‘in the contrast between the objective-quantitative understanding of analogy and the understanding of analogy as hierarchy—a difference between two cultures, whose consequences for human life we are only just beginning to evaluate’.¹⁴⁴ Hierarchic analogy designates a real, universal way of transmitting knowledge, whose comprehensive ‘sacred order’ involves raising up in proportion (*analogos*) each personal existence in imitation of God.¹⁴⁵ Additionally, this sacred, analogical order involves real participation. Citing *On the Celestial Hierarchy*, Yannaras states, ‘The “beauty befitting god” is “simple,” good” and moreover “teletarchic,” which means “transmitting to each, according to their merit, a share of his own light.”’¹⁴⁶ This is because Dionysius ‘sees all beings as participating in the hierarchic unity of communion with the Godhead, in proportion, or analogously, to the mode of existence which each one embodies’.¹⁴⁷ For the Areopagite, living beings participate in the divine life-giving power and energy bestowed dynamically to them as an energetic manifestation of ‘divine wisdom, dynamically summarizing the whole hierarchic arrangement of the world in the immediacy and unity of personal relation between created and uncreated’.¹⁴⁸ What Yannaras adds to Dionysius here, not found in the text itself, is the later Palamite emphasis on the essence-energies distinction. Hierarchic participation is a participation in the *personal* energies of God, which Yannaras highlights as another failure of the West, including now, since the fourteenth century, a failure to understand theosis.¹⁴⁹

¹⁴³ Ibid., 216 (§§72, 73).

¹⁴⁴ Ibid., 220 (§74).

¹⁴⁵ Ibid., 217 (§73).

¹⁴⁶ Ibid.; citation is to Pseudo-Dionysius, *Pseudo-Dionysius: The Complete Works*, 153–4 [PG 3:164d].

¹⁴⁷ Yannaras, *Person and Eros*, 219 (§74); Pseudo-Dionysius, *Pseudo-Dionysius: The Complete Works*, 156 [PG 3:177c].

¹⁴⁸ Yannaras, *Person and Eros*, 219 (§74); the reference is to *On the Celestial Hierarchy*, 4. 1, in Pseudo-Dionysius, *Pseudo-Dionysius: The Complete Works*, 156 [PG 3:177d].

¹⁴⁹ Yannaras, *Person and Eros*, 52–70 (§§19–23). See especially: ‘The problem of the essence-energies distinction set the seal on the differentiation of the Latin West from the

To begin my response to Yannaras' articulation of hierarchic analogy as his response to 'Western essentialist' renderings of analogy, it is crucial to be allowed a brief but necessary excursus on the all-too-neat 'East' versus 'West' divide. Not only does Yannaras espouse this line in his works *ad nauseum*, but many other Western Twentieth-century theologians (both Protestant and Catholic alike) have, to my mind, falsely adopted this misleading division as well. In order to illuminate what follows, I will be using the research of Michel René Barnes and Kristen Hennessy as helpful guides out of this misleading and unnecessarily polemical morass.¹⁵⁰

The often uncritically assumed position is as follows: the Eastern church, or at the very least the Cappadocians and therefore the 'Greeks' have 'always begun' with articulating the divine persons *first*, and *then* goes on to articulate the divine nature/substance, while it is the 'West' or 'Latins' who have 'always begun' with the 'nature' or unity of the 'One God' *first*, and *then* speaks of divine persons. This, it is thought, explains why those in the West seem to rarely speak of the divine persons (Karl Rahner perpetuates this narrative to some extent),¹⁵¹ and thus also it becomes manifestly no surprise

Greek East. The West denied the distinction, wishing to safeguard the simplicity of the divine essence, since rational thought cannot tolerate the conflict between existential identity and otherness, a distinction not entailing division or separation. In the West's understanding, God is defined only by his essence. What is not essence does not belong to God; it is a creation of God. Consequently, the energies of God are either identified with the essence of "pure act," or any external manifestation of them is necessarily of a different essence, that is, a created effect of the divine cause. But this means that *theosis*, the participation of human beings in the divine life, is ultimately impossible, since the grace that deifies the saints, even if "supernatural," according to the arbitrary definition given to it by Western theologians from as early as the ninth century, remains without any real explanation. And it was precisely the defense of the fact of the *theosis* of human beings, the participation of the hesychasts in the sensory experience of the *mode* of the divine life (in the uncreated light of God's glory), that led the Orthodox Church in the synods of the fourteenth century (1341, 1347, 1351 and 1368) to define the essence-energies distinction as the formal difference distinguishing the Orthodox East from the Latin West and to see summarized under the heading of the knowledge of God the heretical deviations of the Roman Church' (Ibid., 65 [§22], emphasis in original). While it is outside the scope of this chapter to go into a refutation of this obviously wrong-headed and clear misreading of not only the 'West' but especially Thomas Aquinas, in the meantime I refer the reader to, e.g., Clarke, "The Limitation of Act by Potency in St. Thomas"; and esp. W. Norris Clarke, "What Cannot Be Said in St. Thomas' Essence-Existence Doctrine," *The New Scholasticism* 48, no. 1 (1974): 19–39.

¹⁵⁰ Michel René Barnes, "De Régnon Reconsidered," *Augustinian Studies* 26, no. 2 (1995): 51–79; Kristin Hennessy, "An Answer to De Régnon's Accusers: Why We Should Not Speak of 'His' Paradigm," *Harvard Theological Review* 100, no. 2 (2007): 179–97.

¹⁵¹ Rahner famously says, 'We must be willing to admit that, should the doctrine of the Trinity have to be dropped as false, the major part of religious literature could well remain virtually unchanged' (Rahner, *The Trinity*, 10–11).

why thinkers such as Lossky, Yannaras, and most recently, John Zizioulas speak much about personhood, to the chagrin of the ‘West’.¹⁵² The consequences of deviating from this ‘Cappadocian’ emphasis have bequeathed a long history of decline into ‘essentialism’, ‘rationalism’, and thus Modernity and atheism, themes which we see repeated above in Yannaras’ chapter on analogy and hierarchy.

These readings of ‘East’ versus ‘West’ and its misleadingly rigid characterizations stem from what Michel René Barnes has dubbed ‘de Régnon’s Paradigm’.¹⁵³ In fact, as Barnes and Hennessy in particular have shown, this ‘paradigm’ is at best not de Régnon’s; at worst, this paradigm’s mutation is incredibly false, for a variety of reasons. First, de Régnon’s designation of ‘Greek’ actually encompasses writers of the first four hundred years of Christianity, and this term actually includes patristic theologians writing in *both* Latin and Greek.¹⁵⁴ ‘Latins’ for de Régnon signify scholastic theologians, and as Hennessy points out, Saint Augustine is not among them as its representative.¹⁵⁵ Instead, while still counted among the ‘Greeks’, Augustine does serve as a ‘bridge’ to later scholastic thought. As Hennessy

¹⁵² To the previously-cited works of Lossky and Yannaras, the following work stands out: Christos Yannaras, *Orthodoxy and the West*, trans. Peter Chamberas and Norman Russell (Brookline, MA: Holy Cross Orthodox Press, 2007). John Zizioulas, *Being as Communion: Studies in Personhood and the Church* (London: Darton, Longman and Todd, 1985); John Zizioulas, “On Being a Person: Towards an Ontology of Personhood,” in *Persons, Divine and Human*, ed. Christoph Schwöbel and Colin E. Gunton (Edinburgh: T&T Clark, 1991), 33–46; John Zizioulas, *Communion and Otherness: Further Studies in Personhood and the Church* (London: T & T Clark, 2006). In the West, Michel Barnes has picked out the following texts: Frederick Crowe, *Doctrine of the Holy Trinity* (Willowdale: Regis College, 1965); James Mackey, *The Christian Experience of God as Trinity* (London: SCM Press, 1983); John O’Donnell, *Trinity and Temporality: The Christian Doctrine of God in Light of Process Theology and the Theology of Hope* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1983); David Brown, *The Divine Trinity* (La Salle: Open Court Publishing Company, 1985); Catherine Mowry LaCugna, *God for Us: The Trinity and Christian Life* (San Francisco, CA: Harper, 1991). Kristin Hennessy shows that Sarah Coakley has added the following theology textbooks to Barnes’ list: G. L. Prestige, *God in Patristic Thought* (London: S.P.C.K., 1952); Kelly, *Early Christian Doctrines*; Edward Hardy and Cyril Richardson, eds., *Christology of the Later Fathers* (London: SCM Press, 1954); Maurice Wiles, *The Making of Christian Doctrine* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1967). For Coakley’s article, see “Introduction—Gender, Trinitarian Analogies, and the Pedagogy of *The Song*,” in Sarah Coakley, ed., *Re-Thinking Gregory of Nyssa* (Malden, MA: Blackwell, 2003), 1–13 at p. 2ff. Remarking on Brown and LaCugna, Barnes says that both ‘embrace the paradigm and develop it fruitfully in order to critique the Augustinian component, but both scholars seem unaware that the paradigm is not embedded in the original texts’ (Barnes, “De Régnon Reconsidered,” 55).

¹⁵³ Barnes, “De Régnon Reconsidered,” 51.

¹⁵⁴ *Ibid.*, 53–4; Hennessy, “An Answer to De Régnon’s Accusers,” 187.

¹⁵⁵ Hennessy, “An Answer to De Régnon’s Accusers,” 189–90. For another account defending Augustine along similar lines, see Pabst, *Metaphysics*, 74–9.

puts it, 'By accentuating the scholastic debt to Augustine, de Régnon subtly argues for the scholastic debt to the Greek Fathers who had such an impact on Augustine's thought'¹⁵⁶ – the point here being that Augustine himself is counted among the 'Greeks'. The second and more important point that Hennessy draws out of de Régnon's work is that while he does indeed distinguish between 'Greek'/patristic and 'Latin'/scholastic theologians, 'he most emphatically does not *oppose* them'.¹⁵⁷

Hennessey illustrates that de Régnon's motives are two-fold. The first stems from the context of the neo-Thomist revival that he had been experiencing in the aftermath of Leo XIII's *Aeterni Patris* encyclical.¹⁵⁸ For these neo-Thomists, the entire tradition was summed up in St Thomas and reified so that instead of being a *part* of the tradition, Thomas was *the* tradition. The neo-Thomist rigidity led de Régnon to engage in his own kind of *ressourcement* of the more varied and richer tradition.¹⁵⁹ In light of the emerging 'monologism'¹⁶⁰ of the neo-Thomist school, de Régnon's second motive was, via a 'retour aux sources,' to show the diversity of the voices of the tradition so that it can 'allow us to draw near to the divine mystery along two inverse paths, to approach this mystery from two opposing sides'.¹⁶¹ Hennessy makes it clear that in no way does de Régnon want to elide the

¹⁵⁶ Hennessy, "An Answer to De Régnon's Accusers," 190. One could add to this the enormous influence of the Greeks upon Thomas Aquinas such as Pseudo-Dionysius the Areopogite, St John Chrysostom, St John Damascene, Origen, St Cyril of Alexandria, St Basil of Caesarea, St Athanasius, St Gregory of Nyssa, et al. For more on this topic see Gilles Emery OP, "A Note on St. Thomas and the Eastern Fathers," in *Trinity, Church, and the Human Person*, Faith & Reason: Studies in Catholic Theology & Philosophy (Naples, FL: Sapientia Press of Ave Maria University, 2007), 193–207; Ignaz Backes, *Die Christologie Des III. Thomas Von Aquin Und Die Griechischen Kirchenväter* (Paderborn: Schöningh, 1931).

¹⁵⁷ Hennessy, "An Answer to De Régnon's Accusers," 191.

¹⁵⁸ *Ibid.*, 183–6.

¹⁵⁹ Hennessy herself makes the self-consciously anachronistic comparison to the *ressourcement* of the later *nouvelle theologie* (*Ibid.*, 185). The irony here is that by returning to the wider tradition, de Régnon makes the more catholic move whereas the neo-Thomists, by attempting to enforce a kind of *sola Thomisticum*, end up with a kind of one-sided 'protestantism' in their approach to the tradition.

¹⁶⁰ See Bakhtin's discussion of this principle in Mikhail M. Bakhtin, *Problems of Dostoevsky's Poetics*, trans. and ed. Caryl Emerson (Minneapolis, MN: University of Minnesota Press, 1984), 79–83; Mikhail M. Bakhtin, *Speech Genres and Other Late Essays*, ed. Caryl Emerson and Michael Holquist, trans. Vern W. McGee (Austin, TX: University of Texas Press, 1986), 161–3; Mikhail M. Bakhtin, *The Dialogic Imagination: Four Essays*, trans. Michael Holquist, New edition (Austin, TX: University of Texas Press, 1982), 342–6.

¹⁶¹ Theodore de Régnon, *Études De Théologie Positive Sur La Sainte Trinité* (Paris: Victor Retaux, 1892), 1:430; Hennessy, "An Answer to De Régnon's Accusers," 195.

differences between the ‘Greek’/‘Latin’ duality that he describes, but instead he intends to act as a moderating voice, commending his readers to take both approaches as necessarily related and complementary, both valid and mutually corrective sides of the same triune mystery.¹⁶² In this light, simply returning to the sources one finds that both ‘sides’ are as rich and varied as the other, which is why it would come as no surprise to find that Dionysius talks about the contemplation of the intellect toward conceptual things,¹⁶³ or the cherubim and seraphim engaged in ‘triple luminous contemplation of the one who is the cause and the source of all beauty,’¹⁶⁴ or even therefore to find St Maximus the Confessor saying the following completely devoid of any ‘geographical’ polemic: ‘We are to think of both of these distinctly, as was said, first one way, then the other: one, single, undivided, unconfused, simple, undiminished, and unchangeable divinity, completely one in essence and completely three in persons, and sole ray shining in the single form of one triple-splendored light’.¹⁶⁵ All of these designations in both traditions are, in fact, quite porous. Moreover, those in the Roman Catholic ‘West’ themselves saw these problems with certain encrustations of their own tradition and attempted to ameliorate the problems through various attempts at *ressourcement*.

Regrettably, in addition to following John Romanides’ polemic against ‘the West,’¹⁶⁶ it is *precisely* this strawman that Yannaras adopts from Lossky’s

¹⁶² Hennessy, “An Answer to De Régnon’s Accusers,” 196.

¹⁶³ *On the Celestial Hierarchy*, 2.4, in *Pseudo-Dionysius: The Complete Works*, 151 [PG 3:144a]: “Now when we apply dissimilar similarities to intelligent beings, we say of them that they experience desire, but this has to be interpreted as a divine yearning for that immaterial reality which is beyond all reason and all intelligence. It is a strong and sure desire for the clear and impassible contemplation of the transcendent. It is a hunger for an unending, conceptual, and true communion with the spotless and sublime light, of clear and splendid beauty.”

¹⁶⁴ *On the Celestial Hierarchy* 7.2, in *Ibid.*, 163 [PG 3:208c]. Furthermore, these highest angels ‘are founded next to perfect and unfailing purity, and are led, as permitted, into contemplation regarding the immaterial and intellectual splendor’ (*ibid.*, 164 [PG 3:208d]).

¹⁶⁵ Maximus Confessor, *The Church’s Mystagogy*, in *Selected Writings*, trans. George C. Berthold, *The Classics of Western Spirituality* (Mahwah, NJ: Paulist Press, 1985), chap. 23, pp. 205–6.

¹⁶⁶ George E. Demacopoulos and Aristotle Papanikolaou, “Augustine and the Orthodox: ‘The West’ in the East,” in *Orthodox Readings of Augustine*, ed. Aristotle Papanikolaou and George E. Demacopoulos (Crestwood, NY: St Vladimir’s Seminary Press, 2008), 11–40 at 28–33. Yannaras follows Romanides’ in locating the fault in Augustine’s supposed heretical rejection of the essence-energies distinction. On this see Christos Yannaras, *Elements of Faith: An Introduction to Orthodox Theology*, trans. Keith Schram (Edinburgh: T & T Clark, 1991), 154–5; Yannaras, *Orthodoxy and the West*, 16. Demacopoulos and Papanikolaou remark, ‘The question must be raised, however, whether Romanides and Yannaras were judging Augustine anachronistically through a hesychastic framework. It might also appear

own narrowly insufficient reading of de Régnon.¹⁶⁷ Yannaras' own formulation of this misleading paradigm contrasts what he calls the 'apophaticism of essence' with the 'Eastern' 'apophaticism of the person'.¹⁶⁸ Paul Gavrilyuk notes, however, that this is a historically unsupportable distinction, which 'is at odds with the Palamite insistence that it is the essence (or unnamable "super-essence") of God, not the divine persons, that is absolutely incomprehensible'.¹⁶⁹ There are, therefore, alternative readings of the two traditions, such as Erich Przywara, who sees precisely the opposite in a Greek Orthodox 'East' whose over-emphasis on participation leads to an *essentialism* on the one hand while an Augustinian, Lutheran 'West' on the other hand leads toward a 'theology of opposition' and thus *existentialism* (the latter of which would explain why the secularized versions of this theology in the West were themselves atheistic existentialisms in Nietzsche, Sartre, *et al.*).¹⁷⁰ Additionally, regarding analogy in the 'West', Gavrilyuk remarks, 'Yannaras mistakenly, but confidently, reduces all forms of Western apophaticism to the method of correcting the limits of analogical predication in natural theology'.¹⁷¹ That is, Yannaras sees a misreading of analogy as the root of the 'West's failure to account for a properly apophatic approach to

that they were injecting neo-scholastic-manual understandings of theological epistemology and salvation, albeit in their filtered, imitative Greek form, into Augustine' (Demacopoulos and Papanikolaou, "Augustine and the Orthodox," 35).

¹⁶⁷ Yannaras, *Person and Eros*, 298–9n.26, he cites Lossky's citation of de Régnon: "Latin philosophy first considers the nature in itself and then proceeds to the person; Greek philosophy first considers the person and afterwards passes through it to find the nature. The Latins think of personhood as a mode of nature; the Greeks think of nature as the content of the person"; citing de Régnon, *Études De Théologie Positive Sur La Sainte Trinité*, 1:433. In light of the research of Barnes and Hennessy explicated above, this can only be read now as a highly selective and context-less choice, and thus incredibly misleading.

¹⁶⁸ Yannaras, *Person and Eros*, 20–3 (§7).

¹⁶⁹ Gavrilyuk, "The Reception of Dionysius in Twentieth-Century Eastern Orthodoxy," 714; he is citing Christos Yannaras, *On the Absence and Unknowability of God: Heidegger and the Areopagite*, ed. Andrew Louth, trans. Haralambos Ventis (New York and London: T & T Clark, 2005), 71, 87.

¹⁷⁰ See Eric Przywara, "Die Reichweite der Analogie als katholischer Grundform" in *Analogia Entis*, 3:289–90. Moreover, Barnes notes that in contrast to English language patristic scholarship that unconsciously accepted de Régnon's paradigm, 'French language scholarship makes it clear that his is de Régnon's own paradigm, and that he may be wrong' (Barnes, "De Régnon Reconsidered," 56). Part and parcel of this French debate is that 'the criticism that Greek trinitarian theology is not only nature-based but improperly nature-based because of the Greek attachment to the term *homouousios*. According to these same scholars, Latin trinitarian theology, by which they mean Augustine's trinitarian theology, is person-oriented, and not nature-oriented, as de Régnon would have it, because Augustine's theology is based on psychology and not physics' (*ibid.*, 55 and the sources listed on p. 72).

¹⁷¹ Gavrilyuk, "The Reception of Dionysius in Twentieth-Century Eastern Orthodoxy," 713; citing Yannaras, *On the Absence and Unknowability of God*, 28.

God—a misreading stemming from tarrying too close to natural philosophical assumptions about God, i.e., a hardened Aristotelianism as pagan rationalism. (What’s more, while Yannaras affirms analogy but critiques the form it takes in ‘the West’, Zizioulas rejects analogy altogether under the assumption that it is merely linguistic, offering instead an ‘ontological’ connection, clearly passing over so many transparently ontologically-replete accounts of analogy.¹⁷²)

Nevertheless, when Yannaras makes the following assertion: ‘That is why there is no reference in the *Summa Theologiae* to the personal God of existential relation: there God is the object of rational inquiry, an abstract intellectual certainty, an ontic essence absolutely in actuality, an impersonal and existentially inaccessible motive cause’¹⁷³—this may easily be dismissed as an unnecessary fabrication not only of Thomas himself, but also of much (but not all, understandably) of the Thomist tradition. But how can this be, if Thomas is so ‘essentialist’?¹⁷⁴ The answer to this¹⁷⁵ is found by looking at the

¹⁷² John Zizioulas, “Relational Ontology: Insights from Patristic Thought,” in *The Trinity and an Entangled World: Relationality in Physical Science and Theology*, ed. John Polkinghorne (Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 2010), 146–56.

¹⁷³ Yannaras, *Person and Eros*, 56 (§20).

¹⁷⁴ ‘Essentialist’ here is not to be taken in the usual contrast of God’s essence being the same as God’s existence as Thomas articulates it, although Yannaras is clearly aware of this dictum; rather, ‘essentialist’ for Yannaras is usually a cipher for a (false) historical legacy of ‘beginning with the one God’, etc., in other words, another way of reifying de Régnon’s so-called paradigm. David Bentley Hart, remarking upon the *analogia entis* against certain dialectical rejections of it as ‘essentialist’, says: ‘the *analogia entis* is quite incompatible with any naïve “natural theology”: if being is univocal, then a direct analogy from essences to “God” (as the supreme substance) is conceivable, but if the primary analogy of is one of being, then an infinite analogical interval has been introduced between God and creatures, even as it is affirmed that God is truly declared in creation (for God is, again, infinitely determinate and is himself the distance—the act of distance—of the analogical interval). Thus the *analogia entis* renders any simple “essentialist” analogy impossible’ (Hart, *The Beauty Of The Infinite*, 242).

¹⁷⁵ Amongst other approaches that deflate such overwrought claims, which Rahner also perpetuates to some extent in response to Thomas’ *Summa Theologica*, see Herwi W. M. Rikhof, “Authority in the Contemporary Theology of the Trinity,” in *Aquinas as Authority. A Collection of Studies Presented at the Second Conference of the Thomas Instituut Te Utrecht, December 14-16 2000*, ed. P. van Geest, H. Goris, and C. Leget (Leuven: Peeters, 2002), 213–34. Rikhof argues that Rahner’s take on Aquinas as introducing a rift between the “on the one God” and “on the Triune God” is in fact a misdiagnosis of the problem due to the fact that such language never actually appears in the original version of Aquinas’ *Summa*. Instead, over the course of time in translation (which is always a form of interpretation), section headers and new terminology were introduced. ‘So a new terminology is used, and with it, associations and assumptions are introduced, apparently without a conscious decision and awareness of the connotations involved and without a clear argument in favour of such a decision. Since it seems that the type of terminology belongs to a later period, it means that

recent tradition of ‘existential’ Thomists in the line of Étienne Gilson¹⁷⁶ (with whom Yannaras is clearly familiar but whose points appear to have fallen flat).¹⁷⁷ That is, for Thomas, God is not ‘essence’ (although God is the simple divine unity of *essentia* and *esse*), but is most properly considered to be subsistent *existence* (*esse*, ‘to-be’) itself, echoing the most proper name for God, ‘I am who I am’. In this regard, W. Norris Clarke is instructive:

St. Thomas’ point is not that existence belongs necessarily to the divine essence, conceived as already the plenitude of perfection in its own right as essence. It is rather that the entire essence itself of God is *nothing else than* the pure unlimited Act of Existence (*Ipsum Esse Subsistens*), which of itself by “nature” contains, at least equivalently, all possible perfections. This is not a reduction of existence to essence, as in the other traditions, but just the opposite: a reduction of essence to existence. This is the truly daring aspect of the doctrine, and the one that has made it difficult for those in other traditions even to grasp, let alone accept.¹⁷⁸

Conjoined with, and crucial to this understanding of the primacy of *esse* is the aspect of form, which Gilson states is ‘the act by which the matter is made to be the matter of such or such a determined substance. The proper role of form is, therefore, to constitute substance *as substance*’.¹⁷⁹ The act-of-being (*ipsum esse*), therefore, is akin to the act itself with respect to the form itself, as Thomas says.¹⁸⁰ In this way, form ‘*achieves* substance’ as the principle of existence (*principium essendi*),¹⁸¹ and as such Gilson lays the groundwork for Clarke’s quotation above, saying that ‘[t]o assert that the act-of-being has the bearing of an act with regard to form itself...is to affirm the radical primacy of existence over essence’.¹⁸² Hence, ‘the act of existing lies at the very heart, or if one prefers, at the very root of the real. It is therefore the principle of the principles of reality’.¹⁸³ Language is at its creaturely limit here, for Thomas is attempting to point toward the ultimate unity of subject and verb, essence and

Aquinas is read and interpreted in terms of a later development, and without noticing this filter. On this basis he is then judged and defended’ (Ibid., 216-18).

¹⁷⁶ E.g., Gilson, *The Christian Philosophy of St. Thomas Aquinas*, 30–44, 81–3, 91–5, 370–5; Joseph de Finance, *Être Et Agir* (Paris: P. U. F., 1945).

¹⁷⁷ Yannaras, *Person and Eros*, 299n.28, 310n.36, 362n.31, etc.

¹⁷⁸ Clarke, “What Cannot Be Said in St. Thomas’ Essence-Existence Doctrine,” 24.

¹⁷⁹ Gilson, *The Christian Philosophy of St. Thomas Aquinas*, 32.

¹⁸⁰ *ScG*, II, c. 54, n. 5.

¹⁸¹ Gilson, *The Christian Philosophy of St. Thomas Aquinas*, 33.

¹⁸² Ibid., 34.

¹⁸³ Ibid.

existence, or as Clarke puts it, ‘*that which is and the act of ising*’.¹⁸⁴ And if it could be possible for one term in Thomas to ‘win out’, it would indeed be the verb, for Thomas chooses *esse* to express the subject in God, and not *essentia*.¹⁸⁵

Persons—angelic, human, and divine—are articulated within this act-of-being. Again, Yannaras says here that persons come ‘after’ the essence as an afterthought and therefore have no real existential reality for articulations from ‘the West’. But for Thomas, this to once more misunderstand the radical nature of the fullness resplendent within the *ipsum esse*. That is, for Thomas, to be a person (or anything else) means that one is a particular subject in that, within the perfection of the act-of-being, essence becomes the limiting principle, the inner limit *to* this subject.¹⁸⁶ Te Velde emphasizes here that in Thomas, it is not usually a limiting ‘by’ (*per*) the essence, but nearly always a limiting ‘to’ (*ad*) a subject by determinate essence. Significantly, this emphasizes that ‘a nature is not so much a pre-existing subject which is already determined in itself, but that the specific nature is the determinateness being acquires in that in which it is received’.¹⁸⁷ But, aside from a very qualified sense regarding the divine persons who are subsistent and who all share the same perfect act-of-being consubstantially with each other only being differentiated by their relations of origin—none of this applies to God, for God is simple *ipsum esse subsistens*. We know creatures as ‘this’ subject as a particular limited essence received in ‘that’ form in the act-of-being; in God, however, there is no limitation, and no way to ‘map out’ conceptually the essence-*esse* distinction, because it is only ‘real’ from the side of creation and ‘logically’ the same in divine simplicity in God. Gilson remarks that the very way the real distinction itself is articulated is so often done in a way that it makes it seem as if ‘existence were itself an essence—the essence of the act-of-being’. But, continues Gilson, ‘[t]his is to treat an act as though it were a thing’.¹⁸⁸ It is understandable that Yannaras has misunderstood this distinction

¹⁸⁴ Clarke, “What Cannot Be Said in St. Thomas’ Essence-Existence Doctrine,” 25.

¹⁸⁵ *Ibid.*, 26.

¹⁸⁶ *Ibid.*, 35–7; and especially *idem*, “The Limitation of Act by Potency in St. Thomas”; *idem*, “The Meaning of Participation in St. Thomas.”

¹⁸⁷ Te Velde, *Participation and Substantiality in Thomas Aquinas*, 152.

¹⁸⁸ Gilson, *The Christian Philosophy of St. Thomas Aquinas*, 35.

in the aftermath of a rigid Neo-Scholasticism, but a clearer way to understand the problem of the distinction as a formulation is to understand that it only becomes a problem for those whose essence is not to exist, i.e., creatures.

When Yannaras argues, therefore, that ‘the West’ is guilty of turning analogy into a measured concept, this attack does find purchase only insofar as various Thomists have misread Thomas in assuming that all versions of analogous predication reduce to the analogy of proportionality—the very articulation which gives rise to the most schematized, conceptual mapping.¹⁸⁹ In the literature, this is the version of analogy that introduces the following schematic:

$$\frac{\text{Human's } \textit{essentia}}{\text{Human's } \textit{esse}} = \frac{\text{God's } \textit{essentia}}{\text{God's } \textit{esse}}$$

However, with even a modicum of reflection, one will quickly see that such an arrangement of proportionality is, in the words of David Burrell, a ‘bag of tricks,’¹⁹⁰ despite the legacy it has had and continues to hold to some degree since Cajetan’s *De Nominum Analogia*. The reason that proportionality fails is due to three key factors. First, the right side of the above diagram is not two ‘things’ or ‘proportions’ in God because of God’s divine simplicity which expresses that God’s essence *is* God’s act-of-being (*esse*). Accordingly, Te Velde avers, ‘Being is not said analogously of God and creature because there exists a similarity between the way God relates to his *esse* and the creature to its created *esse*. On the contrary, there is a radical diversity in [the] way they both relate to being’.¹⁹¹ Secondly, taken as a schema itself, this kind of relation can only express the utmost of the radical diversity between creature and God, for we only know in some sense how the two proportions on either side relate to themselves (either simply by itself in God or by participation in the creature), but not, however, between the two sides of the proportionality. For this reason, Eberhard Jüngel misreads Thomas through a Kantian lens and

¹⁸⁹ For two defenses of the analogy of proportionality, see Anderson, *Reflections on the Analogy of Being*; and most recently, Steven A. Long, *Analogia Entis: On the Analogy of Being, Metaphysics, and the Act of Faith* (Notre Dame, IN: University of Notre Dame Press, 2011).

¹⁹⁰ Burrell, *Analogy and Philosophical Language*, 13.

¹⁹¹ Te Velde, *Participation and Substantiality in Thomas Aquinas*, 97n.

concludes that in Thomas there can only be a pure apophatic silence regarding this relation.¹⁹² That is, Jüngel reads Thomas not as espousing analogy, but as proffering equivocation, but this reading is far afield from displaying a measured degree of fairness to Thomas' texts.¹⁹³ And thirdly, as indicated in

¹⁹² Jüngel also locates Thomas' apophaticism within a Socratic, Dionysian, and Damascene-inspired legacy which he seems to argue comes merely from a pagan spirit of the ineffable distance of God to creation (Jüngel, *God as the Mystery of the World*, 232–45). At every turn, however, Jüngel misses that the references to these other thinkers, or the thinkers themselves (if they are Christian), are directly inspired by Scripture, e.g., Exodus 33:20; John 1:18; 1 John 4:12; 1 Timothy 6:15-16.

¹⁹³ Rolnick, *Analogical Possibilities*, 191–240, 285–6; Hütter, "Attending to the Wisdom of God — from Effect to Cause, from Creation to God," 209–12, 240–5. Hütter shows that oddly, Pannenberg comes out on the opposite pole and accuses Thomas of univocation. For two accounts that defend Jüngel, see Archie J. Spencer, "Causality and the Analogia Entis: Karl Barth's Rejection of Analogy of Being Reconsidered," *Nova Et Vetera* 6, no. 2 (2008): 329–376; Ry O. Siggelkow, "The Importance of Eberhard Jüngel for the Analogia Entis Debate," *The Princeton Theological Review* 15, no. 1 (2009): 63–76. Spencer too attempts to shoe-horn Aquinas anachronistically (but also spuriously on the level of metaphysics) into the Kantian framework. For a response to Spencer, see Thomas Joseph White, OP, "How Barth Got Aquinas Wrong: A Reply to Archie J. Spencer on Causality and Christocentrism," *Nova Et Vetera* 7, no. 1 (2009): 241–70 and 241 and 242n.3 where he briefly, but decisively casts aside the Kantian shackles that Spencer and Jüngel have placed upon Aquinas. Siggelkow, however, is guilty of what he charges John Betz with: he claims Betz has overlooked Jüngel and mischaracterized Barth by overlooking twenty-five years of Barthian scholarship, but Siggelkow himself has not shown he understands the *analogia entis* debate from the Catholic perspective, let alone paid any careful attention whatsoever to the multitude of scholarship on Thomas, analogy, and participation from the last sixty years (indeed, Siggelkow does not cite Thomas once). The most egregiously false assertion of Siggelkow's is: 'For Aquinas, God the Creator is always understood as the highest essence and first cause of all that exists in the created order' (p. 71). Siggelkow displays his confusion in that, this account of Thomas, while false, is actually asserting that Thomas' ontology is a *univocal* series of essences, yet Siggelkow is wont to agree with Jüngel that Thomas actually possesses an *equivocal* project (i.e., as too 'apophatic'). Joseph White detects the same misunderstanding at work in Spencer's claims, betraying a confused ahistoricism (White, 'How Barth Got Aquinas Wrong', 247). Showing no citational support to any of Thomas' texts, let alone any scholarship on the matter, Siggelkow simply follows Jüngel's account unquestioningly. The present chapter and section of this thesis should, I hope, dispel all such caricatures of Thomas as being an 'essentialist'.

Moreover, Siggelkow also does not realize that Przywara himself continued to clarify his own project on the *analogia entis* over the years, to the point that, as Kenneth Oakes shows, 'Przywara's later work itself reflects that the subject and object of theology is not primarily being but the *analogia fidei* and the *commercium*, and thus the center of theology is always and irreducibly the work wrought by the God-man Jesus Christ upon the cross for the sake of creation. It is still Przywara's contention, however, that to speak of the Creator and creation well, we will need to be mindful of analogy, and of the *analogia entis*. Once again the *analogia entis*, according to Przywara, ever and only reflects and radiates the glory of Jesus Christ, the incarnate God' (Kenneth Oakes, "The Cross and the Analogia Entis in Erich Przywara," in *The Analogy of Being: Invention of the Antichrist or the Wisdom of God?*, ed. Thomas Joseph White [Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 2011], 147–71 here at 170). Oakes' essay is commendable not only for its breadth, but also for its ability to extend the discussion to the *whole* Przywara, and not to only focus upon the *analogia entis* of 1932 as Siggelkow narrowly does, despite his laudable efforts to promote Jüngel's work. Lastly, Betz himself has shown his willingness to learn from Oakes' work, and has accommodated and adjusted accordingly. John R. Betz, "After Barth: A New Introduction to Erich Przywara's Analogia Entis," in *The Analogy of Being: Invention of the Antichrist or the Wisdom of God?*, ed. Thomas Joseph White (Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans

the previous section regarding an analogy of two things to a third, this schema does the same thing in that it subordinates humans and God to a higher concept, that is, the concept of the proportionality itself.¹⁹⁴ God is not merely some 'x' to solve in an algebraic equation, and in this sense, Yannaras is right to reject the Neo-Scholastic forms of conceptualism that attempt to determine God within such a schema. As Hans Urs von Balthasar rightly remarks, 'The *analogia entis* forbids the erection of any overarching third that includes both God and the creature; God cannot fall under any concept'.¹⁹⁵

If anything, the recent literature on the analogy debate shows how one cannot simply rely on the etymology of words to make an all-determining case, as Cajetan did regarding the Greek *analogon*, usually translated as 'proportion'.¹⁹⁶ When one actually follows what Thomas says regarding language about God, proper proportionality is actually *not* one of the methods he follows, especially when one understands that this can in no way apply to God as *ipsum esse*. Indeed, as Ashworth remarks, 'Where Cajetan went wrong was not in focusing on ontology but in his gratuitous introduction of the analogy of proportionality'.¹⁹⁷ In this regard, the Creator-creature relation is here not a four-element analogy, but a two-'element' participatory analogy.¹⁹⁸

Publishing Company, 2011), 35–87 at 57n.74. The article of Oakes' to which both Siggelkow and Betz refer is Kenneth Oakes, "The Question of Nature and Grace in Karl Barth: Humanity as Creature and as Covenant-Partner," *Modern Theology* 23, no. 4 (October 2007): 595–616. This article is actually much more amenable to Betz and the Catholic tradition than Siggelkow lets on, attempting a kind of rapprochement between Barth and Henri de Lubac. See also Oakes' recent work which expounds Barth in more detail: Kenneth Oakes, *Karl Barth on Theology and Philosophy* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2012).

Lastly, for Balthasar's brief judgment on Jüngel's understanding of analogy, see Hans Urs von Balthasar, *Theo-Logic: Theological Logical Theory: Truth of God*, trans. Adrian J. Walker, vol. II (San Francisco, CA: Ignatius Press, 2004), 273n.109.

¹⁹⁴ Lyttkens, *The Analogy Between God and the World*, 462, 471.

¹⁹⁵ Balthasar, *Theo-Logic*, 2000, I:17.

¹⁹⁶ Montagnes, *The Doctrine of the Analogy of Being According to Thomas Aquinas*, 126.

¹⁹⁷ Ashworth, "Analogy and Equivocation in Thirteenth-Century Logic," 128.

¹⁹⁸ And thus the work of this chapter has shown, I would argue, that the conclusion of Stammberger is incorrect, as he states that the analogy of attribution corresponds to the level of logic, and the analogy of proportionality to the level of ontology. See Ralf M. W. Stammberger, *On Analogy: An Essay Historical and Systematic*, Europäische Hochschulschriften (Series XXIII) 540 (Frankfurt am Main; Berlin; Bern; New York; Paris; Wien: Peter Lang, 1995), 25.

God is subsistent act-of-being itself, whereas creatures have their *esse* by participation, that is, only ‘in part’, and therefore borrowed.¹⁹⁹

Addressing the famous three-fold division of analogy found in the *Sentences* commentary (upon which Cajetan uses to over-determine the rest of Thomas’ use of analogy), even here one must be forced to address the role of the metaphysician as one that guides the discourse, as shown by Lawrence Dewan in the previous section. The first division is according to intention alone and not according to *esse*, and here Thomas refers to the famous health in body, urine, and medicine example; the second division is according to *esse* alone and not intention, and so the logician will univocally predicate ‘body’ on multiple subjects where the metaphysician and natural philosopher will see a real difference; and the third division, as it refers to those perfections in God such as truth and goodness, is according to *both* intention and *esse*.²⁰⁰ ‘When we focus on words,’ states Ashworth, ‘we focus on the one *intentio* corresponding to each word. When we focus on natures, we focus on their *esse* or being’.²⁰¹ The third division, therefore, while it requires both the skills of the logician and the metaphysician, must place a priority upon the metaphysician because, as stated above, the priority of God as *ipsum esse*—the reality of the act-of-being—must guide our discussion here, and not, *pace* Cajetan and his followers (and even some of his critics like McNerny), according to intrinsic and extrinsic modes of predication within a scheme of proportionality.

As previously stated, Yannaras’ polemic is not without a basis when applied to the Neo-Scholastic attempts to turn analogy into a conceptual enterprise, as in Cajetan and his followers. It is for this reason that Gilson articulated analogy as transferred not to the plane of concepts as Duns Scotus attempted to do with the doctrine of the univocity of being, but the real divergence between Thomas and Scotus stems from the fact that the former

¹⁹⁹ This is not to be confused with the impossible logic of taking a piece or ‘part of’ God. On ‘borrowed existence’ see Cunningham, “Being Recalled,” 59–80 at 59–61.

²⁰⁰ *In I Sent.*, d. 19, q. 5, a. 2 ad 1.

²⁰¹ Ashworth, “Analogy and Equivocation in Thirteenth-Century Logic,” 129.

transferred analogy instead to the plane of *judgment*.²⁰² The reason for this is two-fold. On the one hand, it has to do with how being (*esse*) is articulated, that is, it is not a concept or contained within a genus, and '[i]f being is not a concept, then the unity of being cannot be a concept. If, therefore, there is to be any unity of being in knowledge at all, there remains only the judgment'.²⁰³ On the other hand, it is because all of the 'attributes' of God turn out to be not attributes at all,²⁰⁴ because, as Gilson says, one must continually repeat that God is *esse*, the 'I am who I am,' who *is* all of these attributes, not in a composed manner, but *simpliciter*.²⁰⁵ Even Joshua Hochschild (who we have already mentioned as one who has written a recent defense of Cajetan's 'semantics of analogy'), takes Gilson, *et al*'s point about analogy requiring judgment, arguing that one finds this working in Cajetan as well, as he too pays attention to judgment, ordering his concepts underneath this usage.²⁰⁶

To explore this idea further, it will be fruitful to recall the discussion at the beginning of the previous chapter concerning Levinas' misunderstanding of the truth of knowledge. There we saw that for him, Being is always static and

²⁰² Gilson, *The Christian Philosophy of St. Thomas Aquinas*, 107; Étienne Gilson, *Jean Duns Scot* (Paris: Vrin, 1952), 101. And see Burrell, *Analogy and Philosophical Language*, 153–4; Clarke, "Analogy and the Meaningfulness of Language About God," 126–32; Rocca, *Speaking the Incomprehensible God*, 154–95. Rocca points to a small handful of other early sources making parallel remarks such as Schillebeeckx and Bouillard, the former of whom emphasizes the person's 'tendential' reference to God in analogous statements, and the latter of whom highlights the same anti-conceptual leanings as Gilson. Edward Schillebeeckx, *Revelation and Theology*, trans. N. D. Smith (New York: Sheed and Ward, 1968), 2:167; Henri Bouillard, *The Knowledge of God*, trans. S. D. Femiano (New York: Herder & Herder, 1968), 105–7; Rocca, *Speaking the Incomprehensible God*, cited on 155–7.

²⁰³ Klubertanz, *St. Thomas Aquinas on Analogy*, 116. For a more nuanced account, however, Rocca says, 'Thomas can be read both ways on the question of whether the concept of being is the root of all judgments or the fruit of some of them, that is, whether the concept of being is an independent, essentialist, and primal concept of the mind's first operation, or a quasi-essentialist concept that is the product and, as it were, the residue of even more primary existential judgments: he opts for the former in those texts where he is quoting Avicenna and allowing some of the Avicennian vocabulary's essentialistic themes to shape his own thought, but he implies the latter if we combine the texts that derive *ens* from *esse* with his understanding of judgment as the way to knowing *esse*' (Rocca, *Speaking the Incomprehensible God*, 165–73, here at 172–3). Analogy, however, always follows the latter course.

²⁰⁴ One finds a similar argument in Burrell, *Aquinas: God and Action*, 13–47, esp 15–20.

²⁰⁵ Gilson, *The Christian Philosophy of St. Thomas Aquinas*, 107.

²⁰⁶ Hochschild, *The Semantics of Analogy*, 58–64, 124, 174–5. Hochschild contends that the critique is appropriate against Scotus, not Cajetan. This is not the place to offer a critique of Hochschild, but see Philip Rolnick's review of his book: "The Semantics of Analogy: Rereading Cajetan's *De Nominum Analogia*—By Joshua Hochschild." *Modern Theology* 28, no. 1 (January 2012): 141–5. If Hochschild is correct regarding his treatment of Cajetan, then perhaps the simplest critique of Cajetan was that his judgment did not go far enough.

totalizing, and operates within a strict subject-object dichotomy which elicits an account where the object is always violently subsumed under the subject's gaze. Like Yannaras, this criticism only holds water when one is only operating at the level of concepts. However, for Thomas and the tradition that followed, truth is not the correspondence of objects to the 'subject' as such; rather, truth 'happens' when one corresponds one's intellect *towards* reality, *to* the matter at hand, and this is what Thomas calls the act of *judgment*. In this respect, Thomas says, 'when the intellect begins to judge about the reality apprehended, then its very judgment is something proper to it which is not found in the reality outside the soul; and this judgment is said to be true when it *corresponds to the external reality*'.²⁰⁷ The only reason that the intellect has pride of place in this order at all is not because it is an ego that sublimates everything to itself, but because the intellect is the only faculty capable of making such judgments with regard to nonintellectual reality.²⁰⁸

As such, the distance between the intellect and the reality outside the soul is not merely parallel nor a unity in a Hegelian sense, but is itself a *distance of proportioned analogy*; it is an opening where the things are revealed to themselves in teleological fruition not only for the things themselves, but also uniquely for the intellectual soul of the person.²⁰⁹ The relation between the two is real, which includes both an interest in the integrity of the thing for its own sake in its own beauty, but also involves a dialogical, reciprocal mutuality. Catherine Pickstock helpfully clarifies: 'Intellection, then, is not an indifferent speculation; it is rather a beautiful ratio which is instantiated between things and the mind which leaves neither things nor mind unchanged. This means that one must think of knowing-a-thing as an act of generosity, or salvific compensation for the exclusivity and discreteness of things'.²¹⁰ Analogy as judgment, which Rocca calls 'analogy-in-the-act rather than analogy-after-the-fact,' is therefore an act which takes concepts and necessarily transcends them because the dignity of the realities themselves command such respect.²¹¹ That

²⁰⁷ *De Ver.*, q. 1, a. 3; as cited in Rocca, *Speaking the Incomprehensible God*, 161.

²⁰⁸ Rocca, *Speaking the Incomprehensible God*, 164.

²⁰⁹ John Milbank and Catherine Pickstock, *Truth in Aquinas*, Radical Orthodoxy (London: Routledge, 2001), 7.

²¹⁰ *Ibid.*

²¹¹ Rocca, *Speaking the Incomprehensible God*, 193–4.

is why we can have a ‘concept’ of a person as an individual substance of a rational nature, but one never actually meets this concept; rather, they *encounter* persons, for persons themselves are in no way concepts! What’s more, the activity of dialogue can be now considered as a personalized act of analogical encounter, not only with other persons,²¹² but also with non-human entities, as when one attends to the grain of the wood in the craft of woodworking, or in the slow, deliberative enjoyment of an aged whisky, which itself took years to become what it is.

To Yannaras’ critique that analogy must be a hierarchical understanding and not conceptual, Thomas Aquinas would only nod in approval. In fact, when one reads Thomas and does not ignore the manifold passages on participation and its degrees, as well as his long treatise on angels in the *Summa Theologica* which itself is heavily indebted to Dionysius’ *On the Celestial Hierarchy*²¹³—indeed, it could not have been written without it—then one realizes that analogy in Thomas has been attempting to articulate a real, ‘sacred order’ all along. While the examples of Thomas’ use of Dionysius’ *On the Celestial Hierarchy* abound, two will suffice as illustrations for our purposes. First, Thomas relies on this analogical order found in Dionysius to defend not only the impossibility of seeing the essence of God, for, ‘According to Dionysius a man is said in the Scriptures to see God in the sense that certain figures are formed in the senses or imagination, according to some similitude representing in part the divinity’.²¹⁴

Secondly and more relevant to the topic at hand, in the first question on angels in the *Summa*, Thomas’ very first authority quoted is Dionysius to illustrate the hierarchic order of the angels as they enlighten one another.²¹⁵ But Thomas does not stop there, for in the *corpus* of this article he illustrates how truth itself is an analogical reality, participating and intensifying in different orders of one level of the hierarchy enlightening the next. ‘All that is

²¹² For an extended account on dialogue as *dia-logos*, see the next chapter.

²¹³ *ST*, I, qq. 50–63, 106–13.

²¹⁴ *ST*, I, q. 12, a. 11 ad 1. Thomas cites *On the Celestial Hierarchy*, 4.3, *Pseudo-Dionysius: The Complete Works*, 157 [PG 3:180c]. To this, Thomas adds that the levels of participation include the degrees of prophecy (*ST*, II–II, q. 174).

²¹⁵ *ST*, I, q. 106, a. 1 s.c. Citation is to *On the Celestial Hierarchy*, 8.1, *Pseudo-Dionysius, Pseudo-Dionysius: The Complete Works*, 167 [PG 3:240b].

made manifest is light,' as it says in Ephesians 5:13. This reality is communicated through the manifestation of intellectual light as each is illumined with the known truth.²¹⁶ The illumination occurs in degrees of intensity: one degree of illumination occurs according to the strengthening of intellectual power caused by being 'in the neighborhood' of a superior angel, just as fire makes those things nearest it hot; a second degree of illumination occurs through communication of likeness according to the degrees possessed by the higher angels as they are able to propose to the lower angels. Thomas concludes the corpus of this article by citing *On the Celestial Hierarchy* accordingly: 'Every intellectual substance with provident power divides and multiplies the uniform knowledge bestowed on it by one nearer to God, so as to lead its inferiors upwards by analogy'.²¹⁷ Even in the angelic realm, illuminative knowledge is achieved by way of manuduction, by a leading of the hand upwards toward God. Moreover, this activity of leading is also eminently *personal*, as angels themselves are part of this hierarchy not merely as immaterial beings, but precisely as persons.

The main difference for angels is found in their nature: they are purely immaterial, of an intellectual nature,²¹⁸ not subsisting in a material, human nature, but still existing *as creatures* as distinct in their intellectual knowledge from their *esse*.²¹⁹ For human persons, the manuductive act must respect the physical order of things, which means therefore that they must be involved an act of *resolutio* on the path to God. This reflexive reversal into the metaphysical ordering of things names God as the analogical cause of participated Being, and thus intuits the real logical order of things—that is, respecting the order of a true *metaphysics*. Angels, Thomas says, because they 'are utterly free from bodies, and subsist immaterially and in their own intelligible nature [must] consequently...attain their intelligible perfection

²¹⁶ Thomas cites Ephesians 3:8: 'To me the least of all the saints is given this grace...to enlighten all men, that they may see what is the dispensation of the mystery which hath been hidden from eternity in God'.

²¹⁷ *ST*, I, q. 106, a. 1. The citation is to *On the Celestial Hierarchy*, ch. 15, in *Pseudo-Dionysius: The Complete Works*, 185 [PG 3:332b], which, however, loses the sense of analogical lifting or analogous "anagogy." The Greek reads, 'ἐκάστη γὰρ οὐσία νοερά, τὴν δωρουμένην αὐτῇ πρὸς τῆς θειοτέρας ἐνοειδῆ νόησιν προνοητικῆ δυνάμει διαίρει καὶ πληθεύει, πρὸς τὴν τῆς καταδεστέρας ἀναγωγικῆν ἀναλογίαν'.

²¹⁸ *ST*, I, q. 41, a. 3 ad 2.

²¹⁹ *ST*, I, q. 54, aa. 1–3.

through an intelligible outpouring, whereby they received from God the species of things known, together with their intellectual nature'.²²⁰ In this sense, knowledge is not attained through deduction as it is for human persons,²²¹ for the proper objects of the angelic intellect are intelligible substances, '[w]hereas the proper object of the human intellect, which is united to a body, is a quiddity or nature existing in corporeal matter'.²²² In sum, both human and angelic persons in Thomas participate in an analogical sacred order, each according to their own mode of personal existence which determines the way in which their intellects come to bring each other to teleological fruition.

One wonders, after such an investigation, whether Yannaras could really be talking about Aquinas at all, but of course Yannaras' polemic (as well as Levinas') will indeed continue to be of some relatively minor use, or at least as a sound warning for those intent on making Thomas' teaching on analogy into a rigid theory. As mentioned, it is often remarked that Thomas has no 'general treatise on analogy', or that, as far as logic is concerned, 'Aquinas offers no theory of analogy'.²²³ Yet there are those like Montagnes who claim that in Thomas there is 'a coherent and unified theory of the analogy of being'.²²⁴ How can this be the case? Burrell is absolutely right to emphasize that Thomas' comments on analogy cannot be 'systematized', if that means that it is turned into an absolutely formulaic enterprise,²²⁵ and especially if one is attempting to locate a 'univocal core' in his analogous usage.²²⁶ Analogy cannot be univocity, otherwise it would not be analogy, as by definition it is the middle path practiced between univocation and equivocation.²²⁷ True, there is no single question devoted to analogy, nor does he set out to even explain analogy in the same way when he does give different accounts of its usage. But, the fact that there are many articles spanning Thomas' many works, as

²²⁰ *ST*, I, q. 55, a. 2.

²²¹ *ST*, I, q. 60, a. 2.

²²² *ST*, I, q. 84, a. 7.

²²³ Respectively, Klubertanz, *St. Thomas Aquinas on Analogy*, 105; Burrell, *Analogy and Philosophical Language*, 170 and see also 124, 198, 242, 263, 267.

²²⁴ Montagnes, *The Doctrine of the Analogy of Being According to Thomas Aquinas*, 72.

²²⁵ Burrell, *Analogy and Philosophical Language*, 123–4.

²²⁶ *Ibid.*, 13.

²²⁷ *ST*, I, q. 13, a. 5.

well as the fact that Thomas himself employs analogy *all the time*, even when he does not say, ‘and now I am speaking of *esse* analogously’, shows that it is a mediating logic and *economy* that guides most of his work. Indeed, whenever he speaks of persons, whether divine, angelic, or human, he always applies or assumes Boethius’ definition, analogously ordered to the divine persons as the prime analogates, the most perfect subsistent personal realities by which all other persons are measured. There is thus no ‘plain doctrine’ of analogy, no single core, nor a univocal ‘logic’, but that does not mean that Thomas does not still actually have a *teaching* on analogy. This teaching contains similar, ordered logics of affirming a middle path between univocation and equivocation with terms signifying different levels of proportioned participation in a higher, subsistent reality which is the cause of and simplicity itself of whatever perfection terms are under examination—and one can still affirm this without making the same mistake as assuming that it always happens in the same way in every case. For example, truth is participated in analogously, but this is distinct from participating in Beauty or Goodness, despite the fact that these transcendentals are convertible with one another. Likewise, to be a human person will always be spoken of in an analogous way differently from any of the transcendentals, and because human nature itself is different than the angelic nature, they will, in turn, participate in God differently according to their own diverse modes of creaturehood.

It is for this reason that Burrell highlights Thomas’ locution of ‘analogously speaking’ (*analogice loquendo*) in contrast to discussions of ‘analogous concepts’.²²⁸ There can be no such thing as an ‘analogous concept’ in and of itself, as ‘a concept cannot but be univocal’, which runs contrary to the attempts of William of Ockham and Duns Scotus.²²⁹ For Thomas, this lack of formulation is therefore not a failing, but more about ‘showing’ or pointing toward where the truth lies as opposed to a formalized ‘saying’.²³⁰ Therefore,

²²⁸ Burrell, *Analogy and Philosophical Language*, 121.

²²⁹ *Ibid.*, 191.

²³⁰ *Ibid.*, 197–9. This strong division seems analogous to Levinas’ divide between ‘Saying’ and the ‘Said’, or Barth’s discussion of the dialectic between the Word and words. For more on the similarities between these two thinkers on precisely this point, see Ward, *Barth, Derrida and the Language of Theology*, 147–70.

Burrell states that this analogous usage points not to the disembodied logic of semantics as it points ‘from language to the language user. Or rather they speak of language as emanating from a person with aims and purposes’.²³¹ He continues:

And of course this *is* the context of language—human life and life’s concerns. It is the language arising therefrom which forms the matrix for logic. To call attention, then, to those aspects of our linguistic comportment which are neither susceptible of a rigorous account nor in need of logical justification is not to spurn logic. It is to preserve its integrity. Indeed it is not logic so much as an excessive demand for clarity which stands in the way of the proposed account. To require that ‘similar to’ be explicated by way of ‘identical with,’ for example, reflects an attitude, not a theory.²³²

Not only does Burrell highlight the personal use of analogy, but Janet Soskice makes a similar remark regarding metaphorical usage: ‘For it is not words which refer but speakers using words’.²³³ Here she follows Hilary Putnam who says, ‘The realist explanation, in a nutshell, is not that language mirrors the world but that *speakers* mirror the world [...]’.²³⁴ Burrell, Soskice, and Putnam’s insights rightly point to the dimension of personal usage as it is an exhibition of why analogy *itself* is a personal enterprise. Analogy is analogous precisely because it is individual persons themselves engaging in analogical naming over space and time. As the primary analogates of Being, persons all illuminate the distance between themselves and the world as they both relate to their source in the Triune God. Usage itself requires that language and the things themselves be properly used, and so in this regard, analogous usage does at least have some loose parameters or ‘guard rails’ to guide the person on this path. Furthermore, the reason that analogy has a privileged understanding as personal stems from the very fact that all of the

²³¹ Burrell, *Analogy and Philosophical Language*, 243.

²³² *Ibid.*, emphasis in original.

²³³ Janet M. Soskice, *Metaphor and Religious Language* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1985), 136.

²³⁴ Hilary Putnam, “Realism and Reason,” in *Meaning and the Moral Sciences* (London: Routledge and Kegan Paul, 1978), 123, emphasis in original. The sentence continues: ‘i.e. their environment—in the sense of *constructing a symbolic representation of that environment*’. This part of his formulation is somewhat imprecise for representationalism poses problems of its own, but it is outside of the scope of this thesis to address Putnam’s work.

transcendental terms and perfections are understood primarily as coinciding in a supremely *personal* God.

The distance between the Father and Son in the person of the Spirit is one of pure, overflowing love. The Son as sent by the Father in the Spirit is the very Word of the Father, the image of the invisible God; for us then, Christ becomes the ‘prime analogate’ of the Godhead. But one has to be careful here because there is not an element of participation here between the divine persons in the same way that we participate in God: for, because of divine simplicity, not only is the entire Godhead a Trinity of three persons, each consubstantial with the other existing distinctly by relation, but each person contains the entire Godhead at once as well, for there are no ‘degrees’ of analogous distance here either. Therefore, for Christ to be revealed to us is to also have the full revelation of the Father and the Spirit, supremely personal, yet paradoxically one. The logic of analogy is thus personal not because human persons are the primary analogate of Being, but it is personal precisely because of the advent of the revelation of the divine *Logos* in whom human persons have their being. The ‘logic’ of the ana-logic is Christ. Faith then becomes as much an ana-logical witnessing to the personal God in the sense of the upward motion implied in ἀνά and ἄνω²³⁵ as it is always already a being *analogically* lifted up into higher participation of the eminently personal God.

c. *Personal Service: Przywara & Balthasar on the Analogia Entis & the Analogia Personae*

In the final section of this chapter, I turn to the work of Erich Przywara and the debate surrounding the *analogia entis*, or the ‘analogy of being’. Przywara’s work in particular updates and sharpens the question of analogy in three ways. First, writing in the early twentieth century affords him the position of being able to reflect on much of the analogical tradition that has

²³⁵ On the logic of ἀνά involved in analogy, see Przywara, *Analogia Entis*, 3:103–4.

transpired since the initial debates surrounding Thomas Aquinas. Second, related to the first point: as Przywara read widely in the theological as well as philosophical traditions—both ancient and contemporary—he is able to provide his own flavour of ‘updating’ to the literature on analogy as he incorporates aspects of not only Aristotle, Plato, and Augustine to Thomas’ teaching on analogy, but also Goethe, Nietzsche, Simmel, Troeltsch, Scheler, Newman, Kant, Hegel, Kierkegaard, Husserl, and Heidegger.²³⁶ Finally, Przywara confirms the central point of this thesis: the *analogia entis* is fulfilled and completed in an *analogia personae*, itself upheld and united in the person of Jesus Christ. While Przywara’s primary *Analogia Entis* text itself was always Christ-focused (especially in its final pages), in this chapter I employ the recent work of Kenneth Oakes who shows us that in the later writings of Przywara, the *analogia entis* is primarily about Christ crucified.

Like the history of analogous usage in Thomas, this particular debate surrounding Przywara’s *Analogia Entis* has generated its own set of issues within the correspondingly extensive array of literature.²³⁷ Below I will provide a brief summary of Przywara’s *analogia entis* in what it adds to Thomas’ notion of analogy, but also distinctly how it refers to the person as its prime analogate. Additionally, I will refer to the work of Hans Urs von Balthasar who also takes up Przywara’s task and expands it in certain ways. I will not be exploring the debate revolving around Karl Barth, Gottlieb Söhngen, Eberhard Jüngel, or Hans Urs von Balthasar, except as needed to clarify Przywara’s position.²³⁸

²³⁶ These are the figures that Przywara mentions in the Preface to the First Edition of *Analogia Entis*.

²³⁷ Erich Przywara, SJ, *Analogia Entis. Metaphysik. Ur-Struktur Und All-Rhythmus*, vol. 3 (Einsiedeln: Johannes-Verlag, 1962). In what follows I will be following the forthcoming translation by John Betz and David Bentley Hart (Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 2013). For secondary literature on Przywara, see Thomas F. O’Meara, *Erich Przywara, S. J.: His Theology and His World* (Notre Dame, IN: University of Notre Dame Press, 2002); Puntel, *Analogie Und Geschichtlichkeit*, 149–68, 533–52; Betz, “Beyond the Sublime (pt. 1)”; Betz, “Beyond the Sublime (pt. 2)”; Betz, “After Barth”; Niels C. Nielsen, Jr, “Przywara’s Philosophy of the ‘Analogia Entis’,” *The Review of Metaphysics* 5, no. 4 (June 1952): 599–620; James V. Zeitz, “Przywara and Von Balthasar on Analogy,” *Thomist* 52, no. 3 (1998): 473–98.

²³⁸ Karl Barth, *Church Dogmatics I/1*, trans. G. W. Bromiley and T. F. Torrance (London: T & T Clark, 2004), xiii, where Barth makes his famous “invention of the antichrist” pronouncement; Gottlieb Söhngen, “Analogia Fidei I. Gottähnlichkeit Alleinaus Glauben?,” *Catholica* 3, no. 3 (1934): 113–36; Gottlieb Söhngen, “Analogia Fidei II. Die Einheit in Der

The text of Przywara's *Analogia Entis* is broken up into two main sections, the first entitled 'Metaphysics As Such' [*Metaphysik Überhaupt*], and the second labeled 'Analogia Entis'. The first section begins by examining the rhythm that abounds in philosophy itself. This is exhibited by tracing the movement of different types of philosophical approaches that, on the one hand, begin by way of an *a priori* method, concerned with essences, which he labels the 'meta-noetic'. Examples of this type are Plato, Descartes, Kant, (the late) Husserl, and especially Hegel. On the other hand are the kinds of philosophies as 'existence philosophies', concerned with an *a posteriori* method, focused on concrete existence and practice. Emblematic here are such thinkers as Aristotle, Kierkegaard, Schopenhauer, Nietzsche, Heidegger, and Sartre.²³⁹ Both approaches, however, live within a polar tension such that each implies the other. For example, a meta-noetics will, as a noetics, always refer

Glaubenswissenschaft," *Catholica* 3, no. 4 (1934): 176–208; Gottlieb Söhngen, "Analogia Entis Oder Analogia Fidei?," in *Die Einheit in Der Theologie* (Munich: K. Zink, 1952), 235–47; Gottlieb Söhngen, "Analogia Entis in Analogia Fidei," in *Antwort. Karl Barth Zum Siebzigsten Geburtstag Am 10. Mai 1956*, ed. E. Wolf (Zurich: Evangelischer Verlag, 1956), 266–71; Hans Urs von Balthasar, *The Theology of Karl Barth: Exposition and Interpretation*, trans. Edward T. Oakes (San Francisco, CA: Ignatius Press, 1992); Eberhard Mechels, *Analogie Bei Erich Przywara Und Karl Barth. Das Verhältnis Von Offenbarungstheologie Und Metaphysik* (Neukirchen: Neukirchener Verlag, 1974); Bernhard Gertz, *Glaubenswelt Als Analogie. Die Theologische Analogie-Lehre Erich Przywaras Und Ihr Ort in Der Auseinandersetzung Um Die Analogie Fidei* (Düsseldorf: Patmos Verlag, 1969); Jüngel, *God as the Mystery of the World: On the Foundatin of Theology of the Crucified One in the Dispute Between Atheism and Theism*, 226–98; Siggelkow, "The Importance of Eberhard Jüngel for the Analogia Entis Debate"; Joseph Palakeel, *The Use of Analogy in Theological Discourse: An Investigation in Ecumenical Perspective* (Rome, Italy: Gregorian University Press, 1995); Rocca, *Speaking the Incomprehensible God*, 93–103; Spencer, "Causality and the Analogia Entis"; White, OP, "How Barth Got Aquinas Wrong"; Timothy J. Furry, "Analogous Analogies? Thomas Aquinas and Karl Barth," *Scottish Journal of Theology* 63, no. 3 (2010): 318–30; Keith L. Johnson, "Erich Przywara's Early Version of the Analogia Entis," *The Princeton Theological Review* 15, no. 1 (2009): 9–22; Keith L. Johnson, *Karl Barth and the Analogia Entis*, T & T Clark Studies in Systematic Theology (London: T & T Clark, 2010); Steven A. Long, *Analogia Entis: On the Analogy of Being, Metaphysics, and the Act of Faith* (Notre Dame, IN: University of Notre Dame Press, 2011); and see the recent essays collected in the volume Thomas Joseph White, OP, ed., *The Analogy of Being: Invention of the Antichrist or the Wisdom of God?* (Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans, 2011).

²³⁹ For a more detailed account of these approaches, see Erich Przywara, "Essenz- Und Existenzphilosophie: Tragische Identität Oder Distanz Der Geduld," *Scholastik* 14 (1939): 515–44; reprinted in *Analogia Entis*, 3:213–46. Here Przywara also connects these approaches to a desire to relocate the religious dimension of the tragic into a collapsed immanent domain in an effort to be unified with the Absolute, whereas the Christian account of the tragic is itself overcome in the crucified Christ, expressed within the distance of patience from the believer. See the recent and commendable Tomáš Halik, *Patience with God: The Story of Zacchaeus Continuing In Us*, trans. Gerald Turner (New York: Doubleday Religion, 2009). Przywara's essay could very well be read as a reversal of Nietzsche in a reconfigured 'The Crucified against Dionysios'. For a similar account from another angle, see Girard, *I See Satan Fall Like Lightning*, 173–6.

towards and assume categories of existence.²⁴⁰ Niels Nielsen remarks, ‘The *analogia entis* confirms that the knowing consciousness is directed beyond itself to being in the very act of knowledge. As the fundamental principle of all speculation and reflection, the *analogia entis* signifies that philosophical inquiry is directed to a real object of knowledge in being’.²⁴¹ We see here the logic spoken of above in the previous sections where the intellect ‘adequates’ itself toward Being, as Thomas Aquinas remarks at the beginning of *De Veritate*. Contrariwise, the *a posteriori* also tends toward the *a priori*; in other words, the existential standpoint will find itself directed toward the essence of things, as in Aristotle. But Przywara warns, ‘We pose our either-or not between a meta-noetics and a meta-ontics, but between a meta-noetics that provides the point of departure for a meta-ontics and a meta-ontics that finds its reflection, at the last, in a meta-noetics’.²⁴² Posed in this way, the question of a pure opposition fades away. As such, the movement of the ‘meta-ontic moves backward in self-critique, reflexively, towards the meta-noetic’.²⁴³ Moreover, such a construction of meta-ontics itself presupposes an epistemology. ‘The epistemology that this method in practice employs is one that presumes a complete adequation between knowledge and being: so complete, in fact, that knowledge is nothing other than being brought to expression—indeed, being manifesting itself to itself’.²⁴⁴ Both movements thus imply and interpenetrate one another.

From the standpoint of finitude, however, ‘an account of the *act* of knowledge ... manifestly precedes any account of the *objects* of knowledge’.²⁴⁵ Even in a case of an extreme meta-ontics (i.e., existentialism, dialectical materialism), ‘the meta-noetic point of departure is unavoidable. According to its own formal structure, therefore, metaphysics must begin from

²⁴⁰ Przywara, *Analogia Entis*, 3:23–8. ‘Even Kant’s pure categories of judgment bear the form of ontological categories: quality, quantity, modality, etc. Even Hegel’s retreat to the inner and most formal species of judgment runs up against an expression proper to ontology: identity and opposition. Even the most formal comportment of consciousness as such—relation (that between act and object)—has an ontological shape’ (ibid, 26).

²⁴¹ Nielsen, Jr, “Przywara’s Philosophy of the ‘Analogia Entis,’” 609.

²⁴² Przywara, *Analogia Entis*, 3:24–5.

²⁴³ Ibid., 3:25.

²⁴⁴ Ibid., 3:26.

²⁴⁵ Ibid., 3:25 emphasis in original.

the problem of the act'.²⁴⁶ The reason for this is that Przywara is following the Thomistic order of discursive reasoning which we explored above when delineating the 'arrival' of the person: we first know God from God's effects, from the effects of grace and from other creatures, and we then engage in the act of a reflexive reversal in realizing the proper, logical order of things—this itself is what we called the analogical act of judgment. Thus, in Przywara's terms, the meta-ontic is 'objectively prior' while the meta-noetic is granted 'methodological priority'.²⁴⁷ He calls the difference between the two approaches a 'suspended tension' (*Spannungs-Schwebe*), an existential tension which indicates that the formal principle of the *analogia entis* is itself part and parcel of a 'creaturely metaphysics'.²⁴⁸ Like the Thomistic insight that regards creatures as *creatures* in distinction from God in that they do not have their own existence (*esse*) in the same, identical way that God has in God's simplicity, Przywara formulates the creaturely 'composition' where it is *not* their nature to be *esse* as: 'essence in-and-beyond existence' (*Sosein in-über Dasein*).²⁴⁹ John Betz notes that the difference between Aquinas and Przywara on this point consists in the latter's emphasis not only on the 'tension' of the essence 'in and beyond' existence, but upon the fact that the 'creaturely being is "in becoming" (*in fieri*), or that it only "is" as becoming, specifically as a "coming to be" of essence'.²⁵⁰ This is indebted to the Augustinian emphasis on the nature of the creature as that which both "is" and "is not" (*est non est*), with a stress on what the creature is 'not yet', as in 1 John 3:2 which says, 'what we will be has not yet been revealed'.²⁵¹

Tracing the movements in both *a priori* and *a posteriori* approaches to metaphysics, Przywara highlights that when considered as an *a priori* and *a posteriori* metaphysics *in act*, both tend toward one another, just as in the mutually interpenetrating moments of the meta-noetic and the meta-ontic.²⁵² The *a priori* metaphysics of the act bears the character of a 'superhistorical'

²⁴⁶ *Ibid.*, 3:26–7.

²⁴⁷ *Ibid.*, 3:28.

²⁴⁸ *Ibid.*

²⁴⁹ *Ibid.*

²⁵⁰ Betz, "Beyond the Sublime (pt. 2)," 26.

²⁵¹ *Ibid.*, 15.

²⁵² Przywara, *Analogia Entis*, 3:36–60.

(*übergeschichtlich*) system, which as supercreaturely, attempts to reconcile impasses (*aporai*) and tends toward an absolute dialectic of historical progress.²⁵³ Here we see the transition from a Kantian to an Hegelian approach. On the other hand, an *a posteriori* metaphysics of the act bears the form of intrahistoricity (*Inner-geschichtlichkeit*). In this method, truth is derived from history: ‘truth is known to the degree that the eye that surveys the universality of the intrahistorical turns its gaze upward to contemplate superhistorical truth’.²⁵⁴ A dilemma immediately arises here because either one takes this as an idealism, or, one attempts to collect the various traditions within history to form a common denominator, itself leading toward an historical aporetic. The reason for this, according to Przywara, is that when taken strictly, this approach always leaves historical remainders.²⁵⁵ The reciprocal relationship between these two approaches must be where the truth lies, for, taken absolutely, the vantage point from either end is only truly permissible from a truly divine perspective. As Przywara puts it:

For the creature, only something similar (although precisely for this reason essentially dissimilar) is possible: firstly, moving “with” the current, which is to say, maximally, giving oneself up to it;—secondly, moving “in” the current, which is to say moving in the conscious awareness that even the most vigorous attempt to move “with” the current never grasps the whole of it (because both its past as well as its coming possibilities always loom out of the reach of any attempt, concomitantly, to grasp it), but is instead ever more deeply grasped by it. Seen thus, all “comprehension” must know itself, consciously and from the first, as a “being comprehended.” In the course of this work itself, we shall see how the theme of the *Analogia entis* takes such a method as its own proper mode of operation—how, that is, it formalizes itself in such a method: in every “comprehending of something” (and therein union with it) there is the greater “above-and-beyond” of “being comprehended by it” (and therein the increasing distance that transcends all unity).²⁵⁶

The analogical tension between ‘comprehension’ and ‘being comprehended’ results from the ‘gift character of being’ itself such that, as St Paul remarks,

²⁵³ Ibid., 3:48–50.

²⁵⁴ Ibid., 3:50.

²⁵⁵ Ibid., 3:52.

²⁵⁶ Ibid., 3:57.

we only know when we love God such that we are in turn *known* by God.²⁵⁷ We thus do not exist in ourselves, but have the locus of our existence primarily in another.²⁵⁸

It is within this trajectory that Przywara formulates the theological within an immanently philosophical metaphysics. Within this ‘in between’ (*Zwischen*) within being, the question of the ‘in itself’ as the ‘ground-end-definition itself’ (*Grund-Ziel-Sinn*) comes to light.²⁵⁹ That is, from the focus upon the ‘between’ comes the ‘ground-end’ of this between such that one finds that at the heart of this ‘end’ within the pure *a priori*, from the above to the below, ‘is a certain relation between God and creature: namely, a oneness with a God of the “Ideas” and of “Truth,” to the point of reenacting the groundedness, directedness, and determinateness of all reality from this God’.²⁶⁰ Likewise, in a pure *a posteriori* from the metaphysics of the object or the act, the reverse moment is seen from the below to the above. This problem as distinctly a creaturely problem exhibits the ‘formal fundamental form of “God beyond the creature.”’²⁶¹ Either side of this dilemma strives toward the absolute, whether it is an absolute ‘ideal’ or absolute ‘universal’, and thus at its core, these ‘are questions concerning the innermost rhythmic beat between God (as the absolute) and the created (as what is grounded, directed, and determined by the absolute), in that they are concerned with the innermost beat of becoming (between essence and existence) in the creature’.²⁶² Between the idea of being and the actuality of being: this is the remit of the ‘intra-creaturely’, which is the common plane of the problem—not that between God and creature, where there can be no univocity.²⁶³ The relation between God to the creature, however, does not fall between the aforementioned rhythms of *a priori* and *a posteriori* aporetics (except analogically as an intensification of the dissimilar in the similar), but the relation can only be characterized as one

²⁵⁷ 1 Corinthians 8:2-3. Regarding Balthasar’s adoption of this rhythm, see Schindler, *Hans Urs Von Balthasar and the Dramatic Structure of Truth*, 249, 368; Aquinas, *De Ver.*, q. 1, a. 2 and q. 2, a. 14.

²⁵⁸ Schindler, *Hans Urs Von Balthasar and the Dramatic Structure of Truth*, 96.

²⁵⁹ Przywara, *Analogia Entis*, 3:60–1.

²⁶⁰ *Ibid.*, 3:61.

²⁶¹ *Ibid.*, 3:63.

²⁶² *Ibid.*

²⁶³ *Ibid.*, 3:81.

of gift, or ‘complete “gratuity” (völlige «Ungeschuldetheit»)’.²⁶⁴ This complete gratuity is expressed in the knowledge of God as an *unknowing*, an approach which explodes any ability to comprehend God in concepts. To quote Przywara:

“above-and-beyond” here really means what I Corinthians says about the relationship between revelation and thought: “scandal” and “folly” in the sign of the “cross.” “Pure thought” is “routed,” forced to flee undecidably either to “necessity without actuality” or to “actuality without necessity.” And precisely thus is it philosophy: participation in the truth, which is God. For the *one* metaphysics, *theology* is the ἐντελέχεια ...—that is, its ultimate life-giving form—in that it appears...to be the στέρησις of philosophical thought—that is, its blasting open to the point of a hollowing-out: “life in death.” In that, as Thomas says, the relationship of the theological to the philosophical is one of *excedere* (the “blasting open” in the “above and beyond” to the point of a “hollowed-out abandonment”), it is one of *per-ficere* (of a “thorough crafting-to-the-end” to the point of “perfection”).²⁶⁵

This perfecting rhythm is that which is ‘suspended “between” absolute identity and absolute difference, and finally, “between” nothing and the Creator who creates out of nothing. Such is the complexity of the matter, and it is precisely in the intersection of these two “analogies”—the “immanent” and the “theological”—that Przywara locates the analogy of being’.²⁶⁶

Locating the *analogia entis* is not the same as securing its foundation as a positive given, however; rather, locating the analogy of being is to articulate the contours, rhythm, and perfection of the human person’s experience of the depths of God, who remains ‘ever greater’ distinct. This is why even Barth, as Balthasar notes, affirms that the *analogia entis* is itself a distinctly ‘formal principle’,²⁶⁷ however much the former continued to reject it throughout his work. Philosophy’s movement into theology—and hence its perfection—is a passage which, in its completion, still affirms the difference between the two and hence their dignity, yet without creating a *tertium quid*, that is, no ‘third thing’.²⁶⁸ This motion itself as the non-univocal movement of philosophy into theology mirrors the *theological* logic of the analogy of being. To reuse a

²⁶⁴ Ibid., 3:81–2.

²⁶⁵ Ibid., 3:83, emphasis in original.

²⁶⁶ Betz, “Beyond the Sublime (pt. 2),” 22.

²⁶⁷ Balthasar, *The Theology of Karl Barth*, 47–8.

²⁶⁸ Przywara, *Analogia Entis*, 3:84–5.

quotation from Balthasar: ‘The *analogia entis* forbids the erection of any overarching third that includes both God and the creature; God cannot fall under any concept’.²⁶⁹ In addition to Barth, Przywara even chides his ‘dear friends’ Gottlieb Söhngen, Theodor Haecker, and Balthasar for not understanding that ‘analogia’ in Aristotle is a ‘proportion between two X’.²⁷⁰ He further clarifies: ‘Should an “analogia entis” (which Barth reckoned as Mariology) be the “fundamental Catholic principle”, then it is not a mere “principle” but a “constant structure of that which is purely and clearly factual.” Then, as I have always stressed, it stands as a “suspended middle” between the absolutely transcendent God of Calvin, Kierkegaard, and Barth, and the absolute immanence of the God of Schleiermacher, Ritschl, and Harnack. – “Analogy” as a genuine relation between two X, eradicates from the root every “derivation”, whether deductive or inductive’.²⁷¹ Such a derivation would *itself* be the logic of the ‘third’, which is eschewed from the beginning in the rhythm that Przywara articulates (which, as ‘two relating to a third’, Aquinas also rejected as we saw above).²⁷²

How, then, does Przywara articulate the approach to God if not via some other logic that guides the Creator-creature distinction? This striving after a ‘third’ is only attained in the following: ‘the “third” is a possibility that is fulfilled solely in the measure that “God is all in all,” and is thus ever more greatly beyond every grasping and comprehending by way of concepts. Not in the measure that the mystery becomes a concept, but in the measure that the concept is overcome in the mystery’.²⁷³ Przywara locates this ‘so-called “third”’ (*sogenanntes «Drittes»*) as within an ever greater realization within the theological itself, that is, in the inter-personal, Trinitarian life of God;²⁷⁴ in

²⁶⁹ Balthasar, *Theo-Logic*, 2000, I:17.

²⁷⁰ Erich Przywara, *In Und Gegen. Stellungnahmen Zur Zeit* (Nürnberg: Glock und Lutz, 1955), 278. For commentary on this aspect in Przywara, see Mechels, *Analogie Bei Erich Przywara Und Karl Barth. Das Verhältnis Von Offenbarungstheologie Und Metaphysik*, 31–4. It is a kind of ‘balanced measure’ (*Ausgleichs im Maß*) (ibid, 34) of the Aristotelian law of contradiction which finds itself within the creaturely space between transcendence and immanence. Here the logic of in-and-beyond (*in-über*) is shown as an ‘immanentizing transcendent’ (*immanierende Transzendenz*) and a ‘transcending immanence’ (*transzendierender Immanenz*), (ibid, 34-7).

²⁷¹ Przywara, *In Und Gegen*, 279, translation mine.

²⁷² *ScG*, I, c. 34, n. 2.

²⁷³ Przywara, *Analogia Entis*, 3:86–7.

²⁷⁴ *Ibid.*, 3:88.

other words, Przywara's 'third' is akin to the *via eminentia* of the path of theology as espoused by Dionysius and Thomas. The relationship therefore between 'concept' and 'mystery' is one that is experienced as a *reductio in mysterium*: 'the "concept" arises here anew out of the "mystery": as a "being comprehended" (*einbegriffen sein*) by the "mystery": just as the night unveils its countenance only so far as the light has faded'.²⁷⁵ The mystery seizes *us* 'in order to com-pre-hend us (*um uns ein-zu-be-greifen*). It leads us in order to lead us back into itself'.²⁷⁶ Przywara refers to 1 Corinthians 8:2-3 and remarks that its full significance is 'not simply a sinking away of philosophical "knowing" (*γνώσις*) before a theological and conceptual determination provided by definite revelation (*ἔγνωσται*), but a sinking in the depths into the infinity of union (*εἰ δέ τις ἀγαπᾷ τὸν θεόν, οὗτος ἔγνωσται ὑπ' αὐτοῦ*). In other words, even the concept of "defined truth" leads into the mystery'.²⁷⁷ Likewise, Balthasar, who owes an intellectual debt to Przywara,²⁷⁸ says, 'in its act of self-possession, the worldly subject understands that it is already possessed and comprehended, that the eternal *prius* of being known is the intrinsic form of knowledge'.²⁷⁹ The truth is apprehended in nearly identical terms to that of Przywara's own: 'In the first experience, the subject wraps itself around the object, in the sense that when something is grasped, it finds itself inside the person who grasps it (comprehensively). In the second experience, however, the subject is introduced, initiated even, into the mysteries of the object; it explicitly lays hold only of a fraction of the object's depth and richness, albeit with the promise of further initiation to come'.²⁸⁰ In

²⁷⁵ *Ibid.*, 3:89.

²⁷⁶ *Ibid.*

²⁷⁷ *Ibid.* While Przywara goes on to say that his real target here is Hegel (*ibid.*), the shape of the argument against which Przywara is critiquing is one not too dissimilar to certain Heideggerian- and Levinasian-inspired readings of theology in which metaphysics must be completely 'evacuated' to make room for faith (the assumption being: metaphysics *per se* are seen as wholly pagan and outside of God's capacity to save them and rightly direct them). Both Marion and Westphal follow this path. See Jean-Luc Marion, *God Without Being: Hors-texte*, trans. Thomas A. Carlson (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1991); Merold Westphal, *Overcoming Onto-theology: Toward a Postmodern Christian Faith*, *Perspectives in Continental Philosophy* 21 (New York: Fordham University Press, 2001).

²⁷⁸ On Balthasar's indebtedness to Przywara, see Rodney A. Howsare, *Balthasar: A Guide for the Perplexed* (London: T & T Clark, 2009), 5–8; Stephen Wigley, *Balthasar's Trilogy* (London: T & T Clark, 2010), 15–18.

²⁷⁹ Balthasar, *Theo-Logic*, 2000, I:259.

²⁸⁰ *Ibid.*, I:40.

both Przywara and Balthasar, the contour of veracity traced out is that of a first encounter, deepened by a second movement of a more original truth which is the mysterious depth, a depth which *itself has us in possession*, and not the other way around as our post-Kantian assumptions might lead us to believe. We do not fundamentally possess the truth as much as the truth is that which possesses us.²⁸¹ Indeed, as David Bentley Hart states, ‘Analogy is a discourse of truth that has disabused itself of the notion that truth is a thing only to be grasped’.²⁸²

Przywara brings the first part of *Analogia Entis* to a close by highlighting the impulses of the Catholic church against Hegelian movements within it that seek to conflate and thus confuse philosophy with theology. Citing the Vatican I document *De fide et ratione*, Przywara emphasizes the council’s decision to maintain the distinction between faith and reason.²⁸³ However, the borders of faith and reason are not set at odds, but are in service to the one truth in God, stemming from the ‘submission to the church [as] a being-formed-in-Christ, who as the Eternal Son of the Father is the Logos, the *Intellectus Sui* within the intra-divine life. Thus, what might look like “disciplinary cowardice” is actually a noetic mysticism of participation in the intra-divine procession of Eternal Truth’.²⁸⁴ The achievement worked out is not a half- or semi-philosophical and semi-theological compromise but instead, it finds its completion in a union where the two totally interpenetrate as ‘one in the *one* God of the *one* truth’.²⁸⁵ Instead of violating the independence of philosophy and theology, this interpenetration in the rootedness of divine truth in fact establishes their very integrity. Philosophy, like a nature upon which grace builds, becomes the ‘groundwork’ for theology; theology, though, ‘comes to be, formally, the inner liberation of the act of philosophy’.²⁸⁶ Against both a rationalistic positivism on the one hand and a rationalistic fideism on the other is a single *reductio in mysterium*: ‘The *reductio in mysterium* (which is also

²⁸¹ Benedict XVI likewise says, ‘we never have the truth; at best it has us’. In Benedict XVI, *Light of the World: The Pope, the Church, and the Signs of the Times: A Conversation with Peter Seewald*, 50.

²⁸² Hart, *The Beauty Of The Infinite*, 317.

²⁸³ Przywara, *Analogia Entis*, 3:92–3. *De fide et ratione*, Sess. 3, ch. 4.

²⁸⁴ *Ibid.*, 3:93.

²⁸⁵ *Ibid.*

²⁸⁶ *Ibid.*

and precisely the church's final word) is thus a way into the mystery "in" the concept and "beyond" the concept—which is, at the same time, the answer to Hegel's attempt to grasp the mystery "as" concept (in "absolute knowledge"), in that it is primarily the concept which appears "as" mystery (namely, as the "self-concept" of a Trinitarian dialectical God).²⁸⁷ Przywara's summary, therefore, is as follows: 'The "in-and-beyond" has shown itself to be the fundamental formal relation within our principle of metaphysics as such'²⁸⁸—that is, understood precisely as a 'creaturely metaphysics'.

Thus ends our exposition of Part I of Przywara's *Analogia Entis* which he calls 'metaphysics as such' (*Metaphysik überhaupt*). Before moving on to the conclusion of the section in looking at Part II entitled 'Analogia Entis' of the same work, it will be noteworthy to pause and examine the nature of truth contained within such a 'creaturely metaphysics'. In this regard, Hans Urs von Balthasar's *Theo-Logic* (vol. 1): *The Truth of the World* acts as a kind of refashioning of Part I of Przywara's *Analogia Entis*. The first thing to note is that the structure of worldly truth itself, because it bears this 'in-and-beyond' quality, is inexhaustible in the same way that a deepening into mystery leads not to more certainty, but further into the mystery itself. The reason why 'truth is always an opening, not just to itself and in itself, but to further truth'²⁸⁹ is contained in the following: '[T]ruth begins to unfurl its inexhaustible plenitude—which only goes on becoming more and more inexhaustible—in the course of long familiarity with it. ...[I]t is obvious from the outset that truth, as a property of being, is at bottom no more susceptible of, or accessible to, an exhaustive definition than is being itself. [...] Definition is the determination of a generic concept by the addition of a specific difference. However, being itself is not a genus, because all the differences of being are themselves being'.²⁹⁰ Creaturely reality, therefore, 'must always remain richer than any cognition of it and ... the truth even of the lowest level of being contains a richness that so utterly eludes exhaustive investigation that it can continue to engage inquirers until the end of time yet never ends up as a heap

²⁸⁷ Ibid., 3:94.

²⁸⁸ Ibid., 3:97.

²⁸⁹ Balthasar, *Theo-Logic*, 2000, I:39.

²⁹⁰ Ibid., I:26.

of unmysterious, completely surveyable facts'.²⁹¹ While non-human things are clearly not 'persons', they still possess an analogous 'personal' quality of an incommunicability, that is, an intrinsic value that is a 'being-for-themselves' as a unique gift given to them alone.²⁹²

The relationship described here, however, is not one of pure subjectivity found everywhere (i.e. panpsychism), as there is still a subject-object relation, albeit not that of an *oppositional* dichotomy as Levinas assumed the nature of metaphysics to inhabit. Here again, just as Puntel remarked in regard to Aquinas, Balthasar also speaks of an 'adequation' of the subject to the thing as it really is, but in the sense that the person 'lets [him- or herself] be determined and measured by the thing [object]'. That is, '[a] proportion has to be achieved between subject and object, and *the decisive measure of the proportion lies with the object*'.²⁹³ Objects exist for subjects, not violently in a mere utilitarian sense, but in the way that the subject exists for the object as one who judges the truth of the object, an act of measuring which is a free, spontaneous, achievement in creativity.²⁹⁴ Human persons engage in a 'balancing act' of receiving the measure in 'consenting self-abandonment [*Hingabe*]' while simultaneously judging and measuring;²⁹⁵ put another way, creaturely truth is experienced in a polarity of both observant *theoria* [θεωρία] and creative *poesis* [ποίησις].²⁹⁶ Truth, realized as a personal adequation to the object in giving oneself over in self-abandonment,²⁹⁷ as well as with the simultaneous self-abandonment of the object to the subject,²⁹⁸ reveals truth precisely as

²⁹¹ Ibid., I:85.

²⁹² Ibid., I:81.

²⁹³ Ibid., I:41, emphasis mine. Similarly, Balthasar later says, 'the foundation of the good does not lie primarily in the seeker but in being itself, which is the object of seeking (*bonum est principaliter in re*)' [The Latin translated by Adrian Walker reads: 'the good is principally in (extramental) reality'] (Ibid., I:222).

²⁹⁴ Balthasar, *Theo-Logic*, 2000, I:41.

²⁹⁵ Ibid., I:42.

²⁹⁶ Ibid., I:43.

²⁹⁷ Ibid., I:70–1.

²⁹⁸ Ibid., I:112–13. Jörg Disse, without much elaboration, takes issue with this aspect of Balthasar's thought insofar as he sees this conversation to be a 'strange anthropomorphism' stemming from the fact that 'there is no person to whom [the subject] is related' in this subject-object relation. See his "Person und Wahrheit in der Theologie Hans Urs von Balthasars," in *Gott Für Die Welt. Henri De Lubac, Gustav Siewerth Und Hans Urs Von Balthasar in Ihren Grundanliegen. Festschrift Für Walter Seidel*, ed. Peter Reifenberg and Anton van Hoof (Mainz: Matthias-Grünwald-Verlag, 2001), 367–84 here at 373–4. Disse

creaturely truth. And, as Balthasar says, ‘To recognize creatureliness as creatureliness means to recognize God immediately within it. To perceive the limit of worldly truth means to apprehend concomitantly and tacitly what lies beyond it’.²⁹⁹ In this recognition, true knowledge begins to flourish for the first time.

True knowledge is established within this suspended middle between receptivity and the creative activity of personal adequation—a knowledge whose character is distinctly realized as *service*. Balthasar states, ‘Knowledge is, in the very act of its origination, *service*, because it begins when the subject, without being consulted, is conscripted into the world’s labor force and attains judgment only at the end’.³⁰⁰ Service, therefore, comes after the careful discernment of the world’s objects³⁰¹ to the degree that it serves the truth precisely insofar as it is a service to love itself.³⁰² That is, worldly truth is further grounded in the service of God, who is in-and-beyond creation.³⁰³ It is here in the context of personal service that all of the themes come together in Przywara’s definition of the analogy of being.³⁰⁴ For Przywara, ‘Service is never simply a discrete act of charity,’ Brian Dunkle says, as ‘it is rather the activity that characterizes the creature *qua* creature, related analogically to the Creator’.³⁰⁵ Furthermore, as David L. Schindler has shown, the person cannot be merely reduced to its empirical objectivity either, as, in light of the reduction placed upon the person in light of the Enlightenment, it overlooks

apparently fails to see that what is at work in Balthasar is not unnecessary anthropomorphism, but rather a consistent ‘meta-anthropology’. On this see Martin Bieler, “Meta-anthropology and Christology: On the Philosophy of Hans Urs Von Balthasar,” *Communio* 20, no. 1 (Spring 1993): 129–46.

²⁹⁹ Balthasar, *Theo-Logic*, 2000, I:252.

³⁰⁰ *Ibid.*, I:68.

³⁰¹ ‘At the beginning of its cognitive activity, the subject, far from being isolated in itself, find itself in the midst of a veritable babel of objects expressing themselves and offering it their truth. By the same token, the effort of knowledge consists in understanding these voices and interpreting their diverse languages’ (*ibid.*, 69).

³⁰² Balthasar, *Theo-Logic*, 2000, I:203.

³⁰³ *Ibid.*, I:256. For a helpful account of the history of Przywara’s account of the God who is ‘in us and beyond us’ as he draws this out from Augustine, see Kenneth Oakes, “Three Themes in Przywara’s Early Theology,” *The Thomist* 74, no. 2 (2010): 283–310 at 284–94.

³⁰⁴ On this topic, see the following helpful article: Brian P. Dunkle, “Service in the *Analogia Entis* and Spiritual Works of Erich Przywara,” *Theological Studies* 73, no. 2 (2012): 339–62.

³⁰⁵ *Ibid.*, 343–4.

the gift-based character of the creature whose nature is seen most truly in service and adoration.³⁰⁶

Before reconnecting with Przywara's emphasis on service, I will quickly trace the movement in Part II of his *Analogia Entis* that provides the basis for his analogical rhythm—indeed, it is precisely *movement* that characterizes this second part of Przywara's work as we shall see. Within the creaturely metaphysic outlined in Part I, Przywara draws out that being's rhythm itself has an 'order', or as he puts it, an 'ordering order'.³⁰⁷ Analogy balances the confusion between the divine idealist 'logic' and the wordly defiant 'dialectic' and sets up a properly creaturely logic. Przywara refers to the grammar of 'analogy' as ordering both 'according to an orderly sequence' in the sense of the Greek ἀνά and as 'up above' as from ἄνω.³⁰⁸ When seen under this aspect, the analogical movement between creature and Creator takes a decidedly anagogical shape: 'In its ἀνά, then ..., the ἀναλογίζεσθαι of analogy says that thought, as a distanced obedience to the Logos (ἀνά in the sense of "according to" an "above"), is the pervasive working of the Logos in all things (ἀνά in the sense of an "above that orders")'.³⁰⁹

The upward movement is grounded not in pure logic, nor in a dialectical ascent as in Hegel, but in analogy which is itself grounded in the *principle of non-contradiction*. It is here, based upon Aristotle's principle, that the noetic and ontic forms, and thus the meta-noetic and the meta-ontic, interpenetrate.³¹⁰ In *nuce*, this principle states that something cannot simultaneously both 'be' and 'not be' at the same time.³¹¹ Both the logic of identity, and the Hegelian dialectical logic, attempt to radicalize contradiction to the extent that 'the world is the rhythm of its dialectical unfolding. This is to say that the noetic-ontic principle of identity remains determinative in the background (however much Hegel, against Fichte and Schelling, seeks to decommission it), but

³⁰⁶ David L. Schindler, "The Embodied Person as Gift and the Cultural Task in America: *Status Quaestionis*," *Communio* 35, no. 3 (Fall 2008): 397–431 at 415.

³⁰⁷ Przywara, *Analogia Entis*, 3:99.

³⁰⁸ *Ibid.*, 3:103–4.

³⁰⁹ *Ibid.*, 3:104.

³¹⁰ *Ibid.*, 3:104–5.

³¹¹ Aristotle, *Metaphysics*, XI, 5, 1061b-1062a (in English translation: *Metaphysics*, 328).

works itself out in the absoluteness of contradiction'.³¹² Pure logic and dialectical logic ultimately amount to the same thing, that is, the final form is that of identity.³¹³ Analogy, in contrast to these logics, works itself out in the principle of non-contradiction in a dynamic synthesis, serving as the 'minimum' but also within the movement itself. 'That is to say', Przywara clarifies, 'it is not something "from" which one can make deductions; rather, it itself is simply the basis for a back-and-forth debate, whose dynamic is every again renewed. It is the ever renewed *debate* that takes place *between Heraclitus and Parmenides*'.³¹⁴ Analogy takes place in the principle of non-contradiction in that it is a measured equilibrium in the midpoint between Heraclitean 'all is movement' and the Parmenidean 'all is rest'.³¹⁵ Furthermore, this equilibrium is dynamically orientated in that 'the foundation of *analogy* [is] understood as an *immanent dynamic middle directed to an end*. For the "middle" (understood as the back and forth of ἐνέργεια between δύναμις and ἐντελέχεια) grounds the rhythm of analogy. The "end-

³¹² Przywara, *Analogia Entis*, 3:108. Hegel says as early as his 'Difference' essay, 'Life eternally forms itself by setting up oppositions, and totality at the highest pitch of living energy is only possible through its own re-establishment out of the deepest fission' (G. W. F. Hegel, *The Difference Between Fichte's and Schelling's System of Philosophy*, trans. H. S. Harris and Walter Cerf [Albany, NY: State University of New York Press, 1977], 91). Most eminent of all Hegel's explicit reliance on contradiction is his clear statement: '*everything is inherently contradictory*, and in the sense that this law in contrast to the others expresses rather the truth and the essential nature of things. ...[C]ontradiction is the root of all movement and vitality; it is only in so far as something has a contradiction within it that it moves, has an urge and activity' (Georg Wilhelm Friedrich Hegel, *Science of Logic*, trans. A. V. Miller [Amherst, NY: Humanity Books, 1969], 439, emphasis in original). Or in the first volume in the *Encyclopaedia of Logic*: 'There is in fact nothing, either in heaven or on earth, either in the spiritual or the natural world, that exhibits the abstract "either-or" as it is maintained by the understanding. Everything that is at all is concrete, and hence it is inwardly distinguished and self-opposed' (Georg Wilhelm Friedrich Hegel, *The Encyclopaedia Logic: Part I of the Encyclopaedia of Philosophical Sciences with the Zusätze*, trans. T. F. Gaerets, W. A. Suchting, and H. S. Harris [Indianapolis, IN: Hackett Publishing Company, 1991], 187/§119 A2). Accordingly, Charles Taylor calls contradiction the 'motor' for Hegel's dialectic. Charles Taylor, *Hegel* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1977), 119–20, 227, 276–7, 280–2, 304. Lastly, see the important work: Songsuk Susan Hahn, *Contradiction in Motion: Hegel's Organic Concept of Life and Value* (Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, 2007).

³¹³ Przywara, *Analogia Entis*, 3:109. Przywara adds, 'The Hegelian "contradiction" has been radicalized in the Heideggerian "Nothing." But this Nothing, as Nothing, is the fundamental principle determining and producing all things. This "productive Nothing" utters the ontic-netic "I am who I am" of the principle of identity' (Ibid.). Cf. the comments on the One in Plotinus as it produces nothing, as well as the plenitude of nihilism in Cunningham, *Genealogy of Nihilism*, 5–9, 178–9.

³¹⁴ Przywara, *Analogia Entis*, 3:109–10, emphasis in original.

³¹⁵ Ibid., 3:112.

directedness,” on the other hand, shows the “measure from above” (which lies in the ἄνω of ἀνά).³¹⁶

To this movement realized within the analogical middle, Przywara adds: ‘But it is precisely this “end-directedness” that ultimately leads this foundation beyond itself’.³¹⁷ The reason that the foundation is led beyond itself stems from the ‘boundlessness’ (*Grenzenlos*) of the purely formal character of the ‘all is movement’ and ‘all is change’ formulations when seen as the defining, ideal ontic forms. On the contrary, that which is bounded

is characterized by the qualitative-material aspect of the (energetic) unity of ontic and defining form....Thus, here, for the first time, a certain transcendence is mixed into what till now has been immanence. It is not simply that—as it has been to this point—the principle of non-contradiction signifies (both noetically and ontically) a rhythmic middle. It is rather that there is a stress upon “end-directedness,” which becomes more clearly an “end towards which....” The changing movement of the creature is (both noetically and ontically) not only like the surging back and forth of the sea’s same ultimate elements (the ποιόν understood as οὐσία-μορφή), but also, and precisely, like the turbulent infinity of the sea governed by the everlasting stars (the ποιόν understood as εἶδος). *The principle of non-contradiction thus has a stress toward the principle of identity, but in such a way as to be “directed” towards it, not equated with it.* It is not identity that holds sway between them, but analogy itself: an analogy from the moving earth of the creature to a “heavenly identity.”³¹⁸

Analogy, therefore, becomes a relation between the ontic and noetic such that ontic being itself is related to truth and beauty noetically such that the latter is in-and-beyond the former. As Przywara puts it: ‘*analogy is established as a participatory being-related-above-and-beyond*’ [*es begründet sich Analogie als teilnehmendes Über-hin-aus-bezogen-sein*].³¹⁹ That which is ‘beyond’ bears a relational priority to that which is ‘below’ as the archetype is to the image.³²⁰

As this relation is opened up and described by Przywara, he relies upon Augustine and Thomas Aquinas to show that their accounts of causality

³¹⁶ Ibid., 3:116, emphasis in original.

³¹⁷ Ibid.

³¹⁸ Ibid., emphasis mine.

³¹⁹ Ibid., 3:118.

³²⁰ Ibid., 3:120.

represent a ‘decisive reversal of Aristotelianism’.³²¹ Metaphysics within such a strict Aristotelian framework cannot think change outside of potentiality nor act as total act which excludes potentiality. But within the suspended middle of analogy, there exists now an ‘active potentiality of an unlimited “service to God.”’³²² The creaturely potentiality is taken to its utmost extreme in the *potential oboedientialis* which expresses the coinherence of ‘beyond nature’ and ‘in nature’; *in extremis* it is the most negative as the most positive of potentialities: ‘a positive potentiality so bold as to journey into the nature of God himself’.³²³ This pathway bespeaks a “fruitful possibility” (*potential activa*) that is not pure passivity but is a “free gift from above,” by virtue of the nothing of “powerlessness” being summoned to “service.” In this way it realizes the Augustinian notion of being liberated by God (*gratia liberatrix*) for free service (*libera servitus*).³²⁴ At the highest peak of potentiality, our passivity is a beckoning toward action. However, ‘far from constituting an *emancipari a Deo*—as Augustine calls Pelagianism—the deed of free action is an indication of the most incisive potentiality: the distance of the servant from the Lord’.³²⁵ Przywara notes that the ‘crown’ of this Augustinian achievement is the Thomistic notion of secondary causality: ‘the doctrine that the creaturely “is (valid)” is so very much something produced *from* the divine Is (Truth, etc.) as to have its own power of operation’.³²⁶ Secondary causality, therefore, as a non-competitive understanding of creaturely activity in relation to God’s own divine act, is itself an analogous relation of the creature to God as a relation of service.

The core of Przywara’s *Analogia Entis* gathers these themes together in the doctrine set forth by the Fourth Lateran Council (1215) statement which says, ‘between Creator and creature no similarity can be noted, however great,

³²¹ Ibid., 3:133.

³²² Ibid.

³²³ Ibid., 3:132–3.

³²⁴ Ibid., 3:134. Przywara cites Augustine, Sermon CLXXIV, ii, 2 and *In Ps. XCIX*, 7.

³²⁵ Ibid. The citation to Augustine is to *Opus Imperf. In Jul.*

³²⁶ Ibid. ‘Out of the eminence of its goodness, the first cause gives to other things not only their existence but the power also to be causes themselves (*prima causa ex eminentia bonitatis suae rebus aliis confert non solum quod sint, sed etiam quod causae sint*)’ (*De Ver.*, q. 11, a. 1).

without having to note a greater dissimilarity between them'.³²⁷ This statement captures the rhythmic movement of analogy in the following way: first, in the analogy of attribution (*analogia attributionis*), which is the 'positive relationship' between God and creatures 'however great'; but secondly, negatively in the 'ever greater dissimilarity' as it overcomes the positive attribution, that is, 'by virtue of the ever new above-and-beyond of God, beyond even the greatest possible proximity to Him—in an illimitable "suspended" analogy (*analogia proportionis secundum convenientiam proportionalitatis*)'.³²⁸ To be sure, in at least two places beyond the *Analogia Entis* text, Przywara explicitly states that analogy is precisely this same formulation: In the text *In und Gegen* he states, '*Analogia entis* is an abbreviated way of stating what the IV Lateran Council—and thus a Christianity that was still one—defined in 1215';³²⁹ and the essay entitled 'The Scope of Analogy as a Fundamental Catholic Form' ('Reichweite der Analogie als katholische Grundform') is entirely devoted to expounding the council's response to Abbot Joachim of Fiore's doctrine of the Trinity.³³⁰

Joachim's doctrine of the Trinity resulted in a tritheism³³¹ based upon the fact that the triune persons were not truly united in 'a true and proper (*veram et propriam*) unity' but instead in a kind of 'collective and by similitude (*quasi collectivam et similitudinariam*), just as many persons are called one people, and many believers one church'.³³² Moreover, the Joachimite formulation, in that it posits the 'Spirit as goal and end', amounts to an extension and development of Origenism: 'since, for Origen, the way of salvation is one of increasing spiritualization—even to the point of an ideal dissolution of the

³²⁷ First stated in full in Przywara, *Analogia Entis*, 3:138. The Latin reads, '*inter Creatorem et creaturam non potest tanta similitudo notari, quin inter eos maior sit dissimilitudo notanda*' (Denziger, 432).

³²⁸ *Ibid.*, 3:139.

³²⁹ Przywara, *In Und Gegen*, 278.

³³⁰ Przywara, "Reichweite der Analogie als Katholischer Grundform"; as reprinted in Przywara, *Analogia Entis*, 3:247–301. Also in this essay, Przywara comments upon the Fourth Lateran Council (directed as it is against Joachim), stating that "'analogy" appears not so much as a principle or as the form of a new theological possibility, but rather as the *self-expressions of the position of the church* as regards all possible theologies' (*ibid.*, 274, emphasis in original). Przywara footnotes another article by himself here: "Neue Theologie" in *Ringel Der Gegenwart*, vol. 2 (Augsburg: Filser, 1929), 669ff.

³³¹ Przywara, "Reichweite der Analogie," in *Analogia Entis*, 3:254–5.

³³² Denzinger, 431; as cited in Przywara, "Reichweite der Analogie," in *Ibid.*, 3:251.

visible forms of the New Covenant into “pure spirit.”³³³ Hegel, as we saw earlier, continues in this same vein, developing a dialectical process of spiritualization that ends in pure identity.³³⁴ Przywara is to the point: ‘Analogy is thus posed against identity, which “theopanizes” God and “pantheizes” the creature’.³³⁵ The council, therefore, sided with Peter Lombard’s formulation and thus ultimately Thomas Aquinas represents this position in that they emphasize the ultimate distance between God and creation.³³⁶ That is, ‘the mystery of unity with and in the tri-personal God (as the greatest and most profound mystery of the supernatural and of redemption) becomes the site of the most formal manifestation of the distance between God, the creator, and the creature’.³³⁷

Yet Balthasar also warns against this distance when it is expressed as having its locus defined by the creature and not by God. There is a temptation to locate the dissimilarity in the wrong place: that is, ‘by saying that “nature” simply denotes the moment of dissimilarity (that aspect of creation that makes it “not God”), while grace bespeaks the moment of similarity (of participation). But that would be a dangerous oversimplification, and indeed it would lead us right back to Baius. The creature is not dissimilar to God because of its nature *as* a creature. Rather it is similar to the God *who* is always ever dissimilar’.³³⁸ Similarly, Balthasar shows that the reason why service must be the primary act of knowing the truth is because it locates the truth outside the subject—recall the priority of the object—in contradistinction to making the subject’s own appetite or striving the site of definition; whereas, focusing upon the striving or appetite for truth defines truth not only by what is *lacking* in the subject, but it thereby places undue emphasis on the subject in

³³³ Przywara, “Reichweite der Analogie,” in *ibid.*, 3:255–8, here at 257. Przywara adds, ‘though as of yet without the explicit distinction of the three stages proposed by Joachim’ (*ibid.*).

³³⁴ Similarly, David Bentley Hart remarks that the tragic ‘dualism’ haunting Platonism gives rise ‘so naturally to the tragic “monism” of Plotinus—for dialectic and identism are finally the same’ (Hart, *The Beauty Of The Infinite*, 246). And, William Desmond also shows how dialectic tends towards univocity in his *Being and the Between* (Albany, NY: SUNY Press, 1995), 131–75.

³³⁵ Przywara, “Reichweite der Analogie,” in *Analogia Entis*, 3:293.

³³⁶ Przywara, “Reichweite der Analogie,” in *ibid.*, 3:251, 258–61.

³³⁷ Przywara, “Reichweite der Analogie,” in *ibid.*, 3:253.

³³⁸ Balthasar, *The Theology of Karl Barth*, 286, emphasis in original.

a way that does not respect truth's true path of discovery in the subject's self-abandonment in freedom to the object, but also the object's freedom to the subject.³³⁹ To exercise a Thomistic diagnosis, in one sense these approaches ultimately confuse the 'logical' and 'real' relations between creatures and God by defining everything from creation's real relation to the creator. Put another way, it is the failure to think analogously, to perform the 'reflexive reversal' in thought toward the God-directed logical order of things. Analogy articulates the formal trajectory of this task in that it is the human person who is capable of serving this true order of analogical participation in the Triune God. It is for this reason that *service* is the primary path toward knowledge of the truth: worldly truth is revealed within the act of service, shown to us in that God, revealed in Christ, says to us: 'I live among you as one who serves'.³⁴⁰

For Przywara, then, the Fourth Lateran Council's formulation puts the ground of the service of truth within the 'ever greater' divine foundation of the tri-personal God, who is 'ever more exalted, beyond everything creaturely, ontic or noetic'.³⁴¹ As we saw above, Przywara moves through the positive 'attributive' analogy, to the negative of the 'ever greater', but this also involves a third rhythm analogous to the *via eminentia* of Dionysius that is a greater positivity of the *Deus semper maior*. In the following quotation, note that Przywara also shows how this analogical logic makes the reflective reversal in the two orders (creaturely/real/below-to-divine/logical/above). As he puts it:

The illimitable "suspended" analogy (*analogia proportionis secundum convenientiam proportionalitatis*) establishes a new "attributive" analogy (*analogia attributionis*), but one that proceeds not, as in the first moment, from below to above, but rather from above to below: from the *Deus semper maior*, the creature's "realm of service" is "attributed" to it. The "ever greater dissimilarity" (*maior dissimilitudo*) here has a positive sense: that of the delimitation of a positive realm

³³⁹ See Balthasar, *Theo-Logic*, 2000, I:257. D. C. Schindler remarks, 'the object knows that it receives the strength to realize its being only from the subject's confidence; if the object has come to be what it is, it owes everything to the subject. The "place" of this realization is the being of the subject as freedom, but it is *only* freedom because it has put itself wholly at the service of the object, that is, because it is objective. Thus, this act of knowledge is creative because it is objective, and it is objective because it is creative' (Schindler, *Hans Urs Von Balthasar and the Dramatic Structure of Truth*, 214).

³⁴⁰ Luke 22:26-7. Cf. Henry, *Words of Christ*, 53.

³⁴¹ Przywara, *Analogia Entis*, 3:139.

into which the creature is “sent forth” for the “performing of a service.”³⁴²

The performative aspect of the service highlights the secondary causality (*viz.*, active, positive potentiality) of the creature as it analogically participates in the same activity of the God who is above-and-beyond: ‘the mysticism of rapture is humbled by the distance between Lord and servant’.³⁴³ It is for this reason that, as an exemplar of scholastic ecclesial theology, Thomas Aquinas is held to be ‘the most adequate theologian of this theology of analogy’.³⁴⁴ In his writings, ‘the order of the positive difference between God and creature is preserved—the difference, namely, between God’s complete sovereignty and the creature’s active “exercises”’.³⁴⁵ Formulated in Thomas’ thought from the development of the Fourth Lateran Council’s insights is the vision ‘that God’s surpassing greatness is manifest precisely in that he establishes the creature’s independence from himself—endowing the creature with its own proper being, its own proper agency, and its own proper providence’.³⁴⁶ The human person adequates him- or herself in being towards the God who is in-and-beyond creation in an adequation proper to their agency as service: a posture of ontological genuflection which also bears the patience of overcoming the impatiently tragic by participating in the patience of God, that is, the one whose incarnate form arrives in the ‘form of a slave’.³⁴⁷

If it has not already become apparent, Przywara’s *Analogia Entis* is as much an ‘analogy of being’ as it is an ‘analogy of the person’, the latter specifically located in the person of Christ incarnate, crucified, risen, and ascended at the right hand of the Father. Despite the debates that arose around this text, Przywara himself always made this fairly explicit, in the original text

³⁴² Ibid.

³⁴³ Ibid., 3:139–40.

³⁴⁴ Przywara, “Reichweite der Analogie,” in *ibid.*, 3:296.

³⁴⁵ Przywara, “Reichweite der Analogie,” in *ibid.*, 3:297.

³⁴⁶ Przywara, “Reichweite der Analogie” in *ibid.*; Przywara cites in this regard *De Ver.*, q. 9, a. 2; q. 11, a. 1.

³⁴⁷ Philippians 2:7-10. This is the conclusion of Przywara’s essay “Philosophies of Essence and Existence,” which shows how the philosophies of essence and existence (both ancient and Modern) are based in an impatience which demand either immediate identity or tragic disintegration. See “Essenz- und Existenzphilosophie” in Przywara, *Analogia Entis*, 3:245–6.

itself, but even more so in his later writings.³⁴⁸ David Bentley Hart, himself indebted to Przywara, rightly says, ‘It is Christ, the Logos and measure of all things, who calls analogy forth, who shows... the bounty of creation in [its] truest light’.³⁴⁹ In Przywara’s *Analogia Entis* text, he sets up this measure first by looking at the order of creation in its real relation to God and finds that it is the human person who is the ‘immanent middle’ between the purely material and the purely spiritual; however, as a ‘border as transition’ seen from above and below it ultimately finds its form in pure spirit which, although it is a ‘connecting middle’, is still within the universe as such.³⁵⁰ This is because it is still confined to the opposite pole of pure corporeality and thus pure spirit is still mutable, whereas with God there remains an infinite distance: *Deus in infinitum distat ab Angelo*, ‘God is infinitely distant from the angel’.³⁵¹ Przywara states, ‘Thus it is God who is the “middle”: as the one in whom alone all multiplicity and all correlated antitheses are one’.³⁵²

For Przywara, on the one hand, all forms of the ‘middle’ within the creaturely are replete with God as the middle in God’s own descending revelation. And this applies even and especially in the case of the human person. ‘On the other hand, however, all of these revelations of God as middle fall short of the *personal* revelation of God as middle in “the mediator.” Christ appears as the reality of the way in which God-the-middle takes up the All: as the “infinity that assumes” (*infinita virtus assumentis* [the infinite virtue of the one assuming]) he is the unifying head of everything from the invisible to the visible, not only of all persons of every age, but also of pure spirits’.³⁵³ In this sense, however much the human person may share in this likeness, God is ‘formally beyond all creaturely forms of a middle’ in that ‘the form of its

³⁴⁸ In what follows I am indebted to the fine scholarship in Kenneth Oakes, “The Cross and the *Analogia Entis* in Erich Przywara,” in *The Analogy of Being: Invention of the Antichrist or the Wisdom of God?*, ed. Thomas Joseph White (Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 2011), 147–71.

³⁴⁹ Hart, *The Beauty Of The Infinite*, 317. On the very next page Hart connects the analogy of beauty in Christ to the arrival in the form of a servant.

³⁵⁰ Przywara, *Analogia Entis*, 3:194–5.

³⁵¹ *Ibid.*, 3:196; citing *ST*, I, q. 56, a. 3 ad 2.

³⁵² Przywara, *Analogia Entis*, 3:196.

³⁵³ *Ibid.*, 3:198, emphasis Przywara’s. He cites here the following four texts from Thomas Aquinas: *A Disputed Question: Concerning the Union of the Word Incarnate*, trans. Jason Lewis Andrew West, n.d., a. 2 ad 15, <http://www4.desales.edu/~philtheo/loughlin/ATP/index.html>; *ST*, III, q. 8, a. 6; a. 3; a. 4.

uniqueness is the uniqueness of God himself: the “All in one” of the mediator figuring as the immediate visibility of the oneness of God’.³⁵⁴ The mystery of the unique incarnation reaches its apogee in the question about Christ’s being: ‘for, on the one hand, the one divine Person, as one substance, also stipulates the one divine *esse* of Christ (*unum esse simpliciter propter unum esse aeternum suppositi*);³⁵⁵ but, on the other hand, the reality of Christ’s humanity at the same time includes the *being* of his humanity as an *esse secundarium*, though not *accidentale*,³⁵⁶ in the mode of a *nova habitudo esse personalis praeexistentis ad naturam humanam*’.³⁵⁷ Przywara states that analogy in Thomas culminates in the *analogia entis* such that ‘the *entis* signifies so great a separation between God and creature that there is no common *genus* whatsoever between them...—but even so, it is precisely here that, at the root, a radically positive unity is declared’.³⁵⁸ This is because for Thomas the matter of the ‘perfecting border’ (*confinium* as *perfectio*) intends in every case a ‘going beyond’: ‘from man as middle to spirit as middle to God as middle. But it is precisely this that makes it the phenomenon of “perfection,” since the “middle of creation” is constituted by God in the God-man, and this not merely as a human middle, but rather (in the “scandal of the cross”) a human middle within the all-too-human, and as such—in this way—a middle that brings all things to perfection’.³⁵⁹

It is here in the focus upon the perfection found in the scandal on the cross that Kenneth Oakes has shown that Przywara’s ‘theology is wholly a *theologia crucis*’.³⁶⁰ Earlier, in response to Yannaras, it was shown the Fourth Lateran Council’s statement in response to Joachim de Fiore was wholly and explicitly

³⁵⁴ Przywara, *Analogia Entis*, 3:198.

³⁵⁵ *De Unione*, a. 4. Trans by Betz and Hart: ‘one simple being on account of the one eternal being of the suppositum’.

³⁵⁶ *Ibid.* For an account of the *esse* or ‘is’/‘to be’ of Christ, see the following two excellent works: Thomas G. Weinandy, OFM, Cap, “Aquinas: God IS Man: The Marvel of the Incarnation,” in *Aquinas on Doctrine: A Critical Introduction*, ed. Thomas G. Weinandy, OFM, Cap, Daniel A. Keating, and John Yocum (London and New York: T & T Clark, 2004), 67–90; and the forthcoming Riches, *Christ, the End of Humanism*, chap. 3.

³⁵⁷ Przywara, *Analogia Entis*, 3:201, emphasis Przywara’s. The final Latin citation is from *ST*, III, q. 17, a. 12. Betz and Hart translate it: ‘a new relation of the pre-existent personal being to human nature’.

³⁵⁸ Przywara, *Analogia Entis*, 3:201, emphasis Przywara’s. Przywara cites *ST*, I, q. 4, a. 3.

³⁵⁹ Przywara, *Analogia Entis*, 3:201–2.

³⁶⁰ Oakes, “The Cross and the *Analogia Entis* in Erich Przywara,” 148.

both a point about the *being* of God with respect to creatures precisely as it was about the ever greater distance between creatures and the three *persons* of God who is one. Likewise, Oakes points out that Przywara's indebtedness to the Council's formulation consists of upholding 'decisions that have their primary location in the doctrine of the one God, who is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, who is "unity" and "perfection" "by nature."' Przywara's *analogia entis* is thus mindful of the particularity of this God who is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit from all eternity'.³⁶¹ While the Christological center was the final, perfecting end of Przywara's *Analogia Entis*, Oakes shows that especially in his much neglected later works, Przywara's theology is even more focused upon the crucified Christ.

Following the afterword to Przywara's late work *Alter und Neuer Bund*, Oakes points to comments made about the difference between the *analogia entis* and the *analogia fidei* which highlight the specificity of Christ crucified. In order to proceed, it will first be helpful to quickly differentiate Przywara's *analogia fidei* from that of Barth's. For 'Przywara intends by the term *analogia fidei* the far more traditional sense of the practice or art of reading Scripture in light of Scripture, a practice first given its postapostolic expression in the works of Origen and encouraged by the First Vatican Council'.³⁶² This is in contrast to what Przywara dubs 'the now fashionable pseudo-*analogia fidei*' which 'Barth and, following him, Haecker, Söhngen, together with their disciples, erroneously call an "analogical knowing in faith" an "*analogia fidei*."' ³⁶³

³⁶¹ Ibid., 155.

³⁶² Ibid., 160.

³⁶³ Przywara, *Alter und Neuer Bund*, 11; cited and trans. in Oakes, "The Cross and the *Analogia Entis* in Erich Przywara," 160. In what follows, all translations from *Alter und Neuer Bund* are Oakes'. At the end of his 'The Scope of Analogy as a Fundamental Catholic Form' essay, Przywara makes an additional clarification against Barth and Söhngen's attempt to make theology autonomous: 'Thus the attempts of Barth and Söhngen to pose an "*analogia fidei*" over against an "*analogia entis*"—or, as the case may be, to supplement the latter with the former—contain their own riposte. By the phrase "*analogia fidei*," which is taken from Rom. 12:6, what is meant—in the context of this verse and in connection with 1 Cor. 12—is the most authoritative regulation of the personal *charisma* of "prophecy" by the "analogy of faith," as it is worked out in the unity of the *one* body through the "measure of faith" that "God has given" (12:3): "if a man's gift is prophecy, then let him use it according to the measure (analogy) of faith." This "analogy" is thus something objectively authoritative that is given by God, standing above the subjective religious experience of "prophecy": and thus it clearly points towards the "ecclesial theology of analogy," as we developed it above. It is thus

The reading of Scripture for Przywara comes through the interpretation of the *analogia fidei* between the Old and New Testaments. Specifically, Przywara focuses upon Galatians 3:13-14 which says, ‘Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us—for it is written, “Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree”—in order that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith’. Przywara describes the interplay between the two covenants between the two testaments as an ‘energetic correspondence’: a dynamic that, as it ‘affects both Jew and Gentile, has only one name and one place: “the cross is the exclusive and sole place and execution of the ‘energetic’ from the old to the new covenant. Within it alone are the deadly oppositions between promise and law overcome, the curse of the law carried and borne away in and by and through Jesus Christ.”’³⁶⁴ The two covenants, as Przywara remarks, are ‘nailed together’ by ‘the nails of the cross’,³⁶⁵ forming a unity which is the glory of the Lord God. Oakes pinpoints the crucial center of Przywara’s theology: ‘Inasmuch as Przywara understands the *analogia fidei* to be the practice of reading the Old and New Testament together, we can state that it is Jesus Christ crucified who is at the very center of the analogy of faith’.³⁶⁶ As Przywara himself puts it in these concluding remarks on the

not an “actual *analogia fidei*” found within the event of actual “proclamation,” as Barth conceives the “*analogia fidei*”: for such “actuality” is precisely the actuality of “prophecy,” which is to be measured according to an objectively enduring “analogy of faith.” Nor does it suffice to articulate an “objective *analogia fidei*,” understood as the whole harmonious complex of the particular truths of the faith, as Söhngen would have it: for what is ultimate in the living “body” is the living “authority” of the head, the “mystery,” that is, “of the (authoritative, positiving) will,” which according to the letter to the Ephesians is the final form of the church. Thus only one “authoritative *analogia fidei*” remains, i.e., the form of “ecclesiological Christological theological authority,” as we unfolded it above. –Viewed from the perspective of the Fourth Lateran Council, however, the “*analogia entis*” is regarded solely and exclusively as the “final form” of the unity of supernature and nature itself. –Which goes to say that there is no duality between an “*analogia entis*” and an “*analogia fidei*,” but rather that one and the same “*analogia entis*,” directed in its double form both “above” and “below,” is in the response of the fourth Lateran Council the “metaphysical structure” of one and the same “authoritative *analogia fidei*” (Przywara, “Reichweite der Analogie,” in *Analogia Entis*, 3:298n.1).

³⁶⁴ Przywara, *Alter und Neuer Bund*, 527–8; cited in Oakes, “The Cross and the *Analogia Entis* in Erich Przywara,” 161.

³⁶⁵ Przywara, *Alter Und Neuer Bund*, 528; cited in Oakes, “The Cross and the *Analogia Entis* in Erich Przywara,” 161 (he cites p. 531 but it is on p. 528).

³⁶⁶ Oakes, “The Cross and the *Analogia Entis* in Erich Przywara,” 162.

analogia fidei: ‘The scandal of the cross and of God is *the* essence of the *analogia fidei* between the old and the new covenant’.³⁶⁷

The scandal of the cross as the locus of the *analogia fidei* opens up the rhythm of the *analogia entis*, for as Oakes states with regard to the *analogia entis*, it ‘is not the final word concerning God and creation, for it too is contained within a yet greater rhythm: that of the triune life in itself’.³⁶⁸ The formal rhythm of the *analogia entis* reaches its culmination in the Fourth Lateran Council formula: ‘that in the yet-so-great of the similarity of the “Trinity in us” (of the “that they may be one like us and in us” from John 17) there arises the supra-transcendence of the ever greater of the dissimilarity of the “Trinity in itself” (to the every yet-so-great of every unity in the Trinity)’.³⁶⁹ What is described here is the rhythm of an ‘*analogia fidei* in-over the *analogia entis*’, in that ‘the *analogia fidei* resides “in” the rhythm of the *analogia entis*, for even here Creator remains Creator and creature remains creature, and yet the *analogia fidei* remains “over” and in no way reducible to whatever we may wish to say regarding Creator and creature through the *analogia entis*’.³⁷⁰ Furthermore, Przywara expands upon this rhythm in the exchanges of the ‘*commercium*’ between law and promise, slavery and freedom.³⁷¹ The center for these exchanges is Christ on the cross, the place where the sins and curse of the world are taken up and ‘might participate and share in the divine holiness, blessedness, freedom, goodness, righteousness, wisdom, love—in the fullness of majesty’.³⁷² All the relationships between God and the world come together and are recapitulated in Christ. As Oakes

³⁶⁷ Przywara, *Alter Und Neuer Bund*, 531, emphases Przywara’s; cited and trans. in Oakes, “The Cross and the *Analogia Entis* in Erich Przywara,” 163.

³⁶⁸ Oakes, “The Cross and the *Analogia Entis* in Erich Przywara,” 163.

³⁶⁹ Przywara, *Alter Und Neuer Bund*, 540; cited and trans. in Oakes, “The Cross and the *Analogia Entis* in Erich Przywara,” 164.

³⁷⁰ Oakes, “The Cross and the *Analogia Entis* in Erich Przywara,” 164–5; Oakes is following the work of Francisco Luciani Rivero, “Analogía Como Agape. Logos, Commercium, Theologia Crucis (Przywara),” in *El Misterio De La Diferencia. Un Estudio Tipológico De La Analogía Como Estructura Originaria De La Realidad En Tomás De Aquino, Erich Przywara y Hans Urs Von Balthasar y Su Uso En Teología Trinitaria* (Rome: Editrice Pontificia Università Gregoriana, 2002), 415–55 at 448.

³⁷¹ The crucial work here is Przywara, *Logos, Abendland, Reich, Commercium*. Again, I am following the helpful work of Ken Oakes. See Oakes, “The Cross and the *Analogia Entis* in Erich Przywara,” 165–9.

³⁷² Przywara, *Logos, Abendland, Reich, Commercium*, 136–7; as cited and trans. in Oakes, “The Cross and the *Analogia Entis* in Erich Przywara,” 166.

says, 'The *commercium* is, then, the name for the relationship between and the history of Creator and creation, and as such it only has one true and proper name: Jesus Christ'.³⁷³ To this end, Oakes remarks that it is unfair for Balthasar to say that 'it is no accident that Przywsara never produced a Christology'.³⁷⁴ Oakes concludes his remarks on Przywara, noting that Jesus Christ crucified stands at the center of the *analogia entis*, the *analogia fidei*, and the *commercium*:³⁷⁵

The *analogia entis*, the ever greater dissimilarity between Creator and creation, is uniquely revealed in the person of Christ crucified on the cross, for this is the ever greater dissimilarity of God to creation: that God was made man, the Creator made creation, without thereby ceasing to be God and without creation ceasing to be creation, that the infinite source and fountain of life and perfection was made a life, and was cursed and crucified by the very creation he made, taking upon himself and bearing away the sins of those that sinned against him. *O admirabile commercium!*³⁷⁶

Hans Urs von Balthasar, despite his remarks quoted above, does affirm Przywara's work as Christological, and affirms the philosophical and theological rhythms summed up in the *analogia entis* in light of revelation. He says, 'In his major work, *Deus semper maior*, Przywara relentlessly reduces all aspects to a single focal point: God in the crucified Christ in the crucified Church. He draws every direct statement about the relationship between God and man into his dialectic of intersecting cross-beams, where the "crossing" of a positive statement by a negative one imitates the true Cross (and as such is the only form of negative theology)'.³⁷⁷ Rearticulating the logic of the Fourth Lateran Council by focusing upon the person of Christ in the proportion opened up by the Trinity in-and-beyond us, he offers the following summation of this analogy:

³⁷³ Oakes, "The Cross and the *Analogia Entis* in Erich Przywara," 167.

³⁷⁴ Hans Urs von Balthasar, *Theo-Drama: Theological Dramatic Theory: The Dramatis Personae: The Person in Christ*, trans. Graham Harrison, vol. III (San Francisco, CA: Ignatius Press, 1992), 221; as cited in Oakes, "The Cross and the *Analogia Entis* in Erich Przywara," 167.

³⁷⁵ Oakes, "The Cross and the *Analogia Entis* in Erich Przywara," 169.

³⁷⁶ *Ibid.*, 168.

³⁷⁷ Balthasar, *The Theology of Karl Barth*, 328–9. On this topic see also Betz, "After Barth," 85–6; Palakeel, *The Use of Analogy in Theological Discourse*, 147–9.

we must begin with a primary *attributio* [attribution] of all things to the Logos, who, being the ground and end of the creation, himself exemplifies prototypically the right *proportio* [proportion] between God and the creature and, through the Spirit, communicates it to creation. Yet this proportion transcends every human concept. Consequently, despite all appropriation (*attributio*) to Christ and all graced “participation in the divine nature”, it remains a *proportionalitas*, a “proportional relation between proportional relations”, that is, between the relation of difference between God and creature and the relation of difference between Father, Son, and Spirit.³⁷⁸

We see here not the ‘analogy of proportionality’ spoken about above where the schematic shows that creatures relate to their own *esse* as God relates to God’s own *esse*—a formulation which, as we have been arguing, subsumes God under a third concept and ultimately ends in agnosticism; on the contrary, because Christ himself is this distance, he does not exposit God’s ‘being’ or *esse* in relation to that of God’s essence, nor does Christ exposit his own humanity (however much we affirm in faith that Christ is both fully divine and fully human), but instead, Christ the Son exposit the Father in the Holy Spirit.³⁷⁹ We can know—primarily through first *being known*—this proportionality in the very person of Christ who spans the infinite distance, revealed in history as the concrete universal.³⁸⁰ The truth of the world is held together in the second person of the Trinity (Col 1:17), ‘which in turn presupposes that the *analogia entis* is personified in him, that he is the adequate sign, surrender, and expression of God within finite being’.³⁸¹

To conclude, in this chapter I have outlined the logic of analogy in Thomas Aquinas as one that is both one of an *analogia entis* just as much as it is coextensively an *analogia personae*. Then, taking the example of Christos Yannaras’ critique of what he sees as ‘Western’ analogy, by way of a response to his polemics I have offered an account not too unlike his own, one of an ‘existential’ analogy which finds its footing in the *pure act* of the God who is *ipsum esse subsistens*, not an ‘essentialist’ understanding, but when analogy is understood as an act of *personal* judgment, we affirm a tri-personal God in

³⁷⁸ Balthasar, *Theo-Logic*, 2004, II:316.

³⁷⁹ *Ibid.*, II:312.

³⁸⁰ Balthasar, *Theo-Logic*, 2000, I:13.

³⁸¹ Hans Urs von Balthasar, *Epilogue*, trans. Edward T. Oakes (San Francisco, CA: Ignatius Press, 2004), 89.

whom we ontologically participate. Lastly, turning to the work of Przywara, I have sketched the movement of his *Analogia Entis*, a text that is a welcome updating of the rhythms of the formulae of Thomas Aquinas and the Fourth Lateran Council's statements against Abbot Joachim regarding the 'ever greater' distance between creation and Creator. What I have hoped to accomplish in this chapter is that, at every turn, the 'analogy of being', as it is always already an 'analogy of persons' of the tri-personal-yet-one God, is seen most clearly as it comes together primarily and truly in the person of Jesus Christ. Christ is not only the prime analogate of all creation, but it is in him where all creation is held, maintained, and redeemed. The revelation of God in Christ by the Spirit is not the 'end of analogy' according to some,³⁸² but is analogy's 'end' only insofar as it finds its *telos* in the person of Christ who *is* the analogy of being personified. Without Christ there can be no analogy, for as John Betz says, the *analogia entis* is ultimately grounded 'in the hypostatic union of Christ, *in whom* the creature discovers the entire breadth of the analogical interval'.³⁸³

Along the way in these chapters, a concomitant thread that has been spun is the encounter of being as supremely personal, contra the work of Emmanuel Levinas. As I have shown, his own philosophy misunderstands the adequation of the truth of being as one that is always violently in favour of the subject. On the contrary, in elaborating upon the depth and breadth of the Christological focus of the analogical interval, the very form of Christ is one where adequation, both philosophically and theologically, is not that of egoism, but that of *service*. The contours of analogy have not a shape of 'accusation in the accusative' but of a gift of the person of Christ as he reveals the gift of creation in its most personal depths in himself by the Spirit as they reveal the Father. What we previously saw as the accusative dimension is here shown to be the trajectories of creation itself, the philosophical *resolutio* of being until it is enacted, by personal judgment, into the theological affirmation of arriving at the arrival of the person as revealed in the person of the Logos. There is no

³⁸² See the interesting, but misguided essay: Bruce D. Marshall, "Christ the End of Analogy," in *The Analogy of Being: Invention of the Antichrist or the Wisdom of God?*, ed. Thomas Joseph White (Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 2011), 280–313. There is not the space or the scope to go into the issues with this article here.

³⁸³ Betz, "Beyond the Sublime (pt. 2)," 20, emphasis in original.

accusative without the prior dative of giving; that is, there is no creation without the Creator who gifts it. The slander we experience as accusation is no longer a reality that we need obsess over, even if it would want us to think that it obsesses over us. On the contrary, the person of Christ is the one in whom that slander, that curse, is exchanged in the scandal of the cross for our very redemption. Analogy is the opening of the personal communication of the tri-personal God in whom we live, move, and have our being. Without Christ, there is only tragic equivocality and equally tragic univocity where impatience reigns—yet with Christ's patient servitude to the Father in the Spirit, this tragedy has no power over us. Analogy is that ever-greater rhythm to that ever-greater loving, personal reality.

CHAPTER 6
THE DIALOGICAL PERSON: THE ANALOGICAL POSSIBILITY OF
COMMUNION

*Am I really all the things that are outside of me?
Would I complete myself without the things I like around?
Does the music that I make play on my awkward face?
Do you appreciate the subtleties of taste, bud?*

— ‘Taste’, by Animal Collective¹

The cosmos is a kind of dialogue.

— Anonymous commentator on Plato²

As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. The glory that you have given me I have given them, so that they may be one, as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may become completely one, so that the world may know that you have sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.

— John 17:21-3

a. *Introduction: Dialogical Beginnings, and What Dialogue is Not*

In the previous two chapters, it was established that the person is primarily understood as an *analogical* reality. That is, the human person exists and is therefore to be understood as that existent reality which participates proportionately (i.e. analogically) first and foremost in the person of Christ who, for however great there may be a similarity *to* Christ (the directionality is important here), there is always an ever greater dissimilarity between the two. Moreover, human persons reflect this analogical similarity in and through

¹ Animal Collective, ‘Taste’, *Merriweather Post Pavilion*, Domino Records, 2009.

² Anonymous, *Anonymous Prolegomena to Platonic Philosophy*, trans. L. G. Westerink (Amsterdam: North-Holland Publishing Company, 1962), 28.

personal service which itself is ‘derived’ analogically from Christ who comes in the form of a servant. Analogy helps us to understand that there is a proper ordering here, both an ordering towards and upward anagogically to the person of Christ who reveals the truth of their very person to him- or herself. Because persons are analogically-understood and spoken of, ‘person’ can also apply just as fittingly to angelic persons as to human persons, but most appropriately spoken of with regard to the three divine persons in one God from whom all reality owes its creation.

In this final chapter, I attempt to offer a further exercise in extending the analogical discourse by focusing on the person as *dialogical*. The word itself has a variety of meanings, and I will show that reducing it to the mere encounter of two people speaking (which would in fact be more properly described as a ‘*duologue*’) is not sufficient for beholding the resplendent dialogical reality that persons themselves are. A ‘*duological*’ reduction is ultimately an unmediated and univocal—that is monological—encounter that either ends in a deadlock or dialectical sublation (in either case the end is univocal). Hegel’s own logic of contradiction works in a similar fashion: because contradiction and division are the heart of *Geist* empowering all forward movement, everything is split with itself and hence ‘reconciliation’ is offered not as polarity and paradox (as in Goethe and Kierkegaard, respectively), but as the sublating (i.e. suspending *and* cancelling) ‘third’ which prioritizes identity (e.g., the identity of identity and difference).

The order of the chapter will be as follows. First, I will look to the originator of the dialogical form: Plato, as the writer of Socrates, that philosopher who engaged dialogically with his interlocutors in the pursuit of truth. Secondly, as an expansion of the dialogical practice I will look at the perplexing place of ‘*aporia*’ in the Socratic dialogues. That is, what is the reason that so many of the Socratic dialogues end in a perplexing impasse? Connected to this, I will look briefly at Heidegger’s and Derrida’s account of *aporia* wherein being’s *aporia* is revealed within one’s own death (the impossibility of the possible). In response to their accounts, I look back to Kierkegaard’s account of death in his *Upbuilding Discourse* entitled ‘At a Graveside’. Thirdly, after this dialogical prolegomena, I will analogically re-

enact the metaphysical ‘reflexive reversal’ through the dialogical motif of ‘the call and the response’, articulated well in a book by the same name by Jean-Louis Chrétien.³ This will set up the discussion in the same way that the metaphysical *via resolutionis* tilled the soil for the analogical judgment affirming the arrival of the person. The fourth section is itself an attempt at a ‘reflexive reversal’—that moment between the call and the response where one’s understanding deepens, in faith, toward what is more ultimate. Here Christos Yannaras’ understanding of dialogue as *dia-logos* becomes explicit both as an encounter with Creation, but also its Creator. The fifth and final part of the chapter deals with the ‘response’ of the person—but once again, this is not *merely* the response of words as if two people are having a conversation (although it includes that as well, but secondarily); rather, human persons are themselves the response within creation as ‘what is most perfect within all nature’.⁴ Weaved throughout this final section is the work of Mikhail Bakhtin, who I argue compliments the discussion towards a richer understanding of dialogue. Exploring the dialogical response of the person entails, firstly, the recognition that our own response has arrived late, but, thankfully, it has been preceded by the response of Christ which makes our own answerability possible. Next, I attend to the limits of dialogical understanding, for there remains a monological temptation to make human dialogue univocally constitutive of divine dialogue. Hans Urs von Balthasar proves helpful in this regard, pointing us to the analogy of ‘fruitfulness’ and the emergence, through the *I—thou* relationship, of a dialogical *we* relationship. Finally, I look to the work of Karol Wojtyła / Pope John Paul II in an effort to articulate the shape of this *we* in the *communio personarum*, a place where persons engage in participatory dialogue with one another toward the greater good.

What these various resources provide is an understanding of human persons as dialogical. Before getting into the rest of the chapter, however, a brief note about what this claim does *not* mean, in a series of repudiations of what being dialogical does not ‘merely’ mean. First, as a descriptive measure,

³ Jean-Louis Chrétien, *The Call and the Response*, trans. Anne A. Davenport, *Perspectives in Continental Philosophy* 33 (New York: Fordham University Press, 2004).

⁴ Aquinas, *ST*, I, q. 29, a. 3.

to be a dialogical person does not *merely* mean that humans exist in conversation with one another as the constitutive act of their being—although it does *also* mean that this act is crucial and inescapable to a large extent (*viz.*, necessary but not sufficient). Too much an emphasis upon being ‘dialogically constituted’, when taken in the sense of being constituted ‘relationally’ may tip the scales too far toward a conception that overlooks the substance of the person him- or herself, that is, their human dignity.⁵ Once again it does well to heed Lewis Ayres’ challenge to provide an account of analogy—which emphasizes the person as a substance-in-relation who participates in the reality of the *Logos*—before leaping head-first into talk of ‘relationality’.⁶ Second, as a prescriptive warning, to be dialogical does not entail that one need *merely* to engage in dialogical, many-voiced encounters. Such situations alone will not solve the human person’s dialogical yearnings; in other words, sitting around with friends within a plurivocal discussion does *not* reveal the true nature of dialogue, nor exhaust its richness, even though this is very much also a form of necessary dialogue that remains, however, insufficient in and of itself. And, as word of caution: I am *not* saying that dialogue must end—how could it?—nor am I arguing for a view which would dictate the course of human life (which would be a kind of patriarchal monologism). My aim is to simply bear witness toward the way.

Lastly, in these introductory remarks I also want to distance myself from accounts of speech which aim to remove the dialogical principle altogether. Specifically, I have in mind thinkers such as Jean-François Lyotard, who reduces conversation and speech acts to ‘the domain of the *agon* (the joust) rather than that of communication’.⁷ Against the Habermasian notion of

⁵ As Hans Reinders shows, such an over-emphasis on relations also misses that one’s human dignity must come first, for the kinds of relations we intend usually assumes a certain kind of capability of response, and would thus exclude people with profound intellectual disabilities. Instead, Reinders offers an account of the inherent relationality of the person of Christ ‘toward’ human persons in a single act of love and friendship, regardless of their physical or rational capabilities. See Hans S. Reinders, *Receiving the Gift of Friendship: Profound Disability, Theological Anthropology and Ethics* (Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 2008), 286–7.

⁶ Ayres, “(Mis)Adventures in Trinitarian Ontology,” 130–45 at 133.

⁷ Jean-François Lyotard, *The Postmodern Condition: A Report on Knowledge*, trans. Geoff Bennington and Brian Massumi, *Theory and History of Literature* 10 (Minneapolis, MN: University of Minnesota Press, 1984), 88.n34. John Milbank remarks that, along with Gilles Deleuze, Lyotard has also ‘advocated an embracing of the “neo-capitalist” *agon* in all its

'consensus',⁸ Lyotard asserts that every language game (following Wittgenstein)⁹ really amounts to a situation where 'every utterance should be thought of as a "move" in a game'.¹⁰ As he summarizes it: 'to speak is to fight, in the sense of playing, and speech acts fall within the domain of a general agonistics'.¹¹ However, as John Milbank points out, Lyotard's approach suffers from a fatal flaw: '[Lyotard] cannot pass off [the claim that an infinite diversity of language-games must be primary] as liberal pluralism, because nothing, in his philosophy, in principle renders illegitimate the infinite expansion of one language-game at the expense of others, nor the capture and manipulation of many language-games by a single power'.¹² Even more damningly, Lyotard 'fails to come up with any convincing reasons as to why the ontology of difference is detachable from fascism, or a politics of the mythical celebration of power'.¹³ In the last analysis, the 'differend', as an inherently violent principle, has no other foundation than its own heteronomous logic itself, and in this sense it is less than coincidental that it shares in a similar kind of *agon* to Levinas' own violent neurotic obsession made by the other. If every speech act is a violent 'joust', what is stopping a speech act from being accusatory and filled with slander? Wouldn't such an act be just another 'move' within somebody's (or the Nation State's) language game? With regard to the discussion of Alfred Dreyfus in Chapter 2 above, I ask: on Lyotard's terms, was his fault that he was merely 'playing' the wrong 'game'? One can quickly see that there is no way to adjudicate what would be

positivity and counter-positivity' (John Milbank, *Theology and Social Theory: Beyond Secular Reason* [Oxford and Cambridge, MA: Blackwell, 1993], 315).

⁸ See, e.g., Jürgen Habermas, *Legitimation Crisis*, trans. Thomas McCarthy (Boston, MA: Beacon Press, 1975).

⁹ In a parenthetical comment, Lyotard states 'language games, of course, are what this is all about' (Lyotard, *The Postmodern Condition*, 15). For Wittgenstein's comments on 'language games' (*Sprachspiele*), see Wittgenstein, *Philosophical Investigations*, 14–15 (§23).

¹⁰ Lyotard, *The Postmodern Condition*, 10.

¹¹ *Ibid.*

¹² Milbank, *Theology and Social Theory*, 317.

¹³ *Ibid.*, 318–19. Milbank adds that this failure of the philosophers of difference prompted the rise of Parisian 'reaction of the so-called *nouveaux philosophes*' (*Ibid.*, 319). He cites the following works: Bernard Henri-Lévy, *Barbarism with a Human Face*, trans. George Holloch (New York: Harper & Row, 1979); Guy Lardreau and Christian Jambet, *L'Ange: Pour Un Cynégétique Due Semblant* (Paris: Grasset, 1976); *idem*, *Le Monde* (Paris: Grasset, 1978); André Glucksmann, *The Master Thinkers*, trans. Brian Pearce (Brighton: Harvester, 1980).

‘wrong’ here in the first place, if ontologically the ‘differends’ between these discourses really cannot make a decision except to be *merely* different.¹⁴

In line with Lyotard’s approach, we also see Jacques Rancière taking up this agonistic mantle in his collection of essays entitled *Dissensus*, which similarly argues against the idea of consensus.¹⁵ For Rancière, ‘The aim of consensual practice is to produce an identity between law and fact, such that the former becomes identical with the natural life of society. In other words, consensus consists in the reduction of democracy to the way of life or *ethos* of a society—the dwelling and lifestyle of a specific group. Consensus is the process underlying today’s continual shrinkage of political space. The latter only ever emerges in the very *gap between* the abstract literalness of the rights and the polemic over their verification’.¹⁶ More to the point, contrary to the fact that the word ‘consensus’ is supposed to extol the ‘virtues of discussion and consultation’, in reality it means precisely its opposite for Rancière: ‘*consensus* means that the givens and solutions of problems simply require people to find that they leave no room for discussion, and that governments can foresee this finding which, being obvious, no longer even needs doing’.¹⁷ *Dissensus*, on the other hand,

is the demonstration (*manifestation*) of a gap in the sensible itself. Political demonstration makes visible that which had no reason to be seen; it places one world in another—for instance, the world where the factory is a public space in that where it is considered private, the world where workers speak, and speak about the community, in that where their voices are mere cries expressing pain....Political argumentation is at one and the same time the demonstration of a possible world in which the argument could count as an argument, one that is addressed by a subject qualified to argue, over an identified object, to an addressee who is required to see the object and to hear the argument that he ‘normally’ has no reason either to see or to hear. It is

¹⁴ To this end, there continues to be a lineage of radical heterogeneous accounts to the words of Saussure: ‘Everything that has been said up to this point boils down to this: in language there are only differences. Even more important: a difference generally implies positive terms between which the difference is set up; but in language there are only differences *without positive terms*’. Ferdinand de Saussure, *Course in General Linguistics*, trans. Wade Baskin (London: Fontana, 1974), 120, emphasis in original.

¹⁵ Jacques Rancière, *Dissensus: On Politics and Aesthetics*, trans. and ed. Steven Corcoran (London: Continuum, 2010).

¹⁶ From the essay ‘Who is the Subject of the Rights of Man?’ in *Ibid.*, 72, emphasis in original.

¹⁷ ‘The Head and the Stomach, January 1996’ in Jacques Rancière, *Chronicles of Consensual Times*, trans. Steven Corcoran (London: Continuum, 2010), 1.

the construction of a paradoxical world that puts together two separate worlds.¹⁸

Both accounts presume that the space of discourse is one of *agon*, so even in the case of Rancière's account of dissensus, persuasion toward a good end does not seem to be a part of the picture, which is why he must resort merely to 'demonstration'. In a real sense, Rancière's approach has its merits (and is clearly preferable to the pure agonistics of Lyotard's account). His task is to provide a constant study of the 'dividing line' that separates communities and allegiances¹⁹—it is this space in-between where dissensus happens. Davide Panagia sums up Rancière's emphasis on the 'partition' or 'distribution of the sensible' (*partage du sensible*) as 'the site of political contestation directed at the subjugating criteria that impart propriety, property and perception and that structure a society's common order'.²⁰ At the very least, the voices of the marginalized, the worker, and especially the poor are brought to the foreground of discussion—especially because those of privilege would prefer that the poor would remain invisible as they are seen to hurt Twenty-first Century tourist economies.²¹

Yet even for Rancière, as for Lyotard's 'jousting' speech act, the ultimate concern of politics is based purely upon the notion of a *heterology*, which is the purely formal opening to the Other.²² To be sure, Rancière clarifies his position and says, 'There is not *one* infinite openness to otherness, but instead many ways of inscribing the part of the other'.²³ But doesn't this amount to simply moving back the goalposts one notch so that the Other is still inscribed within the *agon* of each language game's heteronomous constitution? Are we not back to a *mere* heteronomy? Despite the attempt to place himself between

¹⁸ From the essay 'Ten Theses on Politics' in Rancière, *Dissensus*, 38–9.

¹⁹ Jacques Rancière, *The Philosopher and His Poor*, trans. A. Parker, C. Oster, and J. Drury (Pennsylvania, PA: Temple University Press, 1991), 225.

²⁰ Davide Panagia, "'Partage Du Sensible': The Distribution of the Sensible," in *Jacques Rancière: Key Concepts*, ed. Jean-Philippe Deranty (Durham: Acumen, 2010), 95–103 at 97, and see esp 95–100.

²¹ For one example, see the illuminating article: John W. Wright, "Being Visible While Poor," *San Diego Union Tribune*, December 24, 2004, http://www.utsandiego.com/uniontrib/20041224/news_lz1e24wright.html.

²² See "Does Democracy Mean Something?" in Rancière, *Dissensus*, 59.

²³ *Ibid.*, 60, emphasis in original.

Levinas and Derrida,²⁴ Rancière's logic of heteronomy lacks any account of just *who* these 'others' are, not in the sense of naming them as 'poor' or 'workers', but with regard to providing an ontological gesture of just *who* these people are as *persons* in themselves. He appears to mirror Levinas' flight from the nominative into the accusative, assuming that any such account amounts to denying 'the law of heteronomy' that is synonymous with the pernicious dreams of Enlightenment liberation which caused the Nazi genocide.²⁵ It is true that totalitarian logics will always tend towards such horrors, but it remains absolutely unconvincing that *every* account of the whole or of its persons need be so grim, especially considering the fact that there is often a tendency (e.g. in Levinas) to react against autonomy with a 'dominating heteronomy'.²⁶ Dialogue need not be Hegelian-inspired consensus as in Habermas, nor need it be reduced to a kind of non-dialogue of 'demonstration' (as in Rancière) or strategically violent language-game posturing (as in Lyotard). To reduce speech and dialogue to what seems to be the polar dualism of 'agreement' versus 'disagreement' says nothing inherently about the dignity, freedom, and incommunicability of the human person, although one side or the other will stress one or more of these capacities at the expense of the others. To take an example: the heterological approach clearly reduces humans to an incommunicable level, and one is wondering in the end just how free or dignified such a person could be if one is left so bereft of any kind of ability to *analogically* relate to another person. In fact, what happens is that the person is ironically evacuated to make room for the person, as we showed above in Chapter 3 in the discussion of Levinas and the accusative.²⁷ In addition, not only is there no recognizable person, but these deconstructive accounts and practices of dissensus amount to a form of 'dialectic unaccompanied by the insight that there is a Whole—hence the great emphasis placed by the critics of reason on fragmentation, partiality,

²⁴ Rancière does this by clarifying that his proposed form of democratic practice is conceptualized 'as the inscription of the part of those who have no part—which does not mean the "excluded" but anybody whoever' (Ibid.).

²⁵ Ibid., 59–60.

²⁶ William Desmond, *Ethics and the Between* (Albany, NY: State University of New York Press, 2001), 202n.21.

²⁷ Similarly, John Crosby makes the connection in Levinas to an emphasis on incommunicability. See his essay 'A Neglected Source of the Dignity of Human Persons' in *Personalist Papers*, 14.

dissolution, difference, otherness, nonbeing. It is Socratism without the Good'.²⁸

In sum, the accounts based on a primary 'heterology' rely upon an underlying logic which cannot ultimately account for both the dignity of the person *and* their incommunicability because it relies on the *mere* fact of the difference of the other. It is not the job of 'personalism', according to Emmanuel Mounier, to replace the reduction of accounting for persons 'according to type' by instead taking 'their shades of difference into account'.²⁹ For the *merely* different can easily be accommodated and re-conditioned by armies of doctors and psychologies into a grand, well-oiled machine as in Aldous Huxley's *Brave New World*. In such a machine, 'everything in it is contrived, nothing is created and no one engages in the adventure of responsible liberty'.³⁰ Such an alienating world is the complete antithesis of a personal cosmos.

It is the claim of this chapter, therefore, that human persons are such that they exist *through* dialogue both in themselves, with others, but more primarily in and through (*dia*) the Word (*Logos*) of Christ. This is what a true dialogue (*dia-logos*)³¹ amounts to: the affirmation of the goodness of creation that is held together in the second person of the Trinity. But how does such an account of 'dialogue' arise in regard to the person? Joseph Ratzinger remarks that the concept of the person itself 'grew out of the idea of dialogue, more specifically, it grew as an explanation of the phenomenon of the God who speaks dialogically'.³² The Triune God is the God who 'speaks in the plural or speaks with himself (e.g., "Let us make man in our image and likeness," or

²⁸ Charles L. Griswold, Jr., "Plato's Metaphilosophy: Why Plato Wrote Dialogues," in *Platonic Writings, Platonic Readings*, ed. Charles L. Griswold, Jr. (University Park, PA: The Pennsylvania State University Press, 2002), 143–67 at 155. See Desmond, *Ethics and the Between*, 156–9, esp 159 for the importance of standing under the good within a dialogue.

²⁹ Emmanuel Mounier, *Personalism*, trans. Philip Mairet (Notre Dame, IN: Routledge & Kegan Paul Ltd., 1952), xvii.

³⁰ *Ibid.*

³¹ This idea of dialogue as *dia-logos* comes from Christos Yannaras, which will be covered below.

³² Joseph Ratzinger, "Concerning the Notion of Person in Theology," trans. Michael Waldstein, *Communio* 17, no. 3 (Fall 1990): 439–54, here at 443; reprinted in Joseph Ratzinger, *Dogma and Preaching: Applying Christian Doctrine to Daily Life*, trans. Michael J. Miller and Matthew J. O'Connell (San Francisco, CA: Ignatius Press, 2011), 181–96, here at 185–6. I will be following the pagination as represented in the *Communio* translation.

God's statement in Genesis 3, "Adam has become like one of us," or Psalm 110, "The Lord said to my Lord" which the Greek Fathers take to be a conversation between God and his Son).³³ Ratzinger summarizes: 'The idea of person expresses in its origin the idea of dialogue and the idea of God as the dialogical being. It refers to God as the being that lives in the word and consists of the word as "I" and "you" and "we."' In the light of this knowledge of God, the true nature of humanity became clear in a new way'.³⁴ Existing in and through the Word, therefore, provides the analogically real basis for the human person as dialogue.

b. *The Living Form of Dialogue*

In this section I will look to the Socratic form of dialogue as handed down to us by Plato. In the form of dialogue as embodied in the person of Socrates—as well as the written dialogue itself—we see the beginnings of a vital form of existence which ecstatically points to a deeper rhythm within creation. This section will thus proceed first, by offering an answer to the question, 'Why did Plato write dialogues?' and secondly and more substantively, by looking at the nature of the Socratic dialogue itself.

Plato's venture into the art of writing dialogues is not without its ambiguities, for he himself tells us in his *Letters* a couple of things that make answering the question 'Why did Plato write dialogues?' less straight-forward than it seems. Namely, in the *Seventh Letter*, Plato says in response to whether he has ever written down his philosophy, that 'I certainly have composed no work in regard to it, nor shall I ever do so in [the] future, for there is no way of putting it in words like other studies'.³⁵ Moreover, language itself bears within it a kind of inadequacy, such that 'no intelligent man will ever be so bold as to put into language those things which his reason has contemplated, especially not into a form that is unalterable—which must be the case with what is

³³ Ratzinger, "Concerning the Notion of Person in Theology," 441.

³⁴ *Ibid.*, 443.

³⁵ *Seventh Letter* 341c.

expressed in written symbols'.³⁶ And finally, Plato sums up these remarks with the statement that the mark of a 'serious man' is one who does not put his (or her) most serious concerns into writing but into activity.³⁷ The example that Plato follows is in the communication of a circle, and all four of the means of communication are deemed inadequate: naming (*onoma*), explanation (*logos*), example (*eidōlon*), and knowledge or insight. None of these provide certainty for attaining the object in question.

These comments of Plato seem perplexing, especially for one so well-known for initiating the art of dialectic and dialogue. Does this entail that the dialogue form itself is ironically undercut by Plato himself?³⁸ On the contrary, Plato explains these remarks cogently in the wider context of the letter. As Kenneth Sayre points out, Plato (in both the *Seventh Letter* and in his famous remarks against writing in the *Phaedrus*) is not disparaging writing as such, but the inadequacy of language itself, both its written *and* oral forms.³⁹ Hans-Georg Gadamer concurs, saying that Plato repeatedly emphasizes 'that each of the four means [naming, explanation, example, and insight] has a tendency to bring a reality of a specific sort to the fore instead of the reality of the thing itself.... [...] The word *circle* is not the circle itself, [etc.] Plato's thesis is this: all these means assert themselves as whatever they are, and in pushing them to the fore, as it were, they suppress that which is displayed in them'.⁴⁰ Even oral speech bears this inadequacy, as it cannot properly represent the contemplated idea of the soul for the reason that even names, descriptions, physical

³⁶ *Seventh Letter* 343a.

³⁷ *Seventh Letter* 344c.

³⁸ Following a host of post-structuralist thinkers, this appears to be the conclusion reached in Max Statkiewicz, *Rhapsody of Philosophy: Dialogues with Plato in Contemporary Thought* (Pennsylvania, PA: Pennsylvania State University Press, 2009). Statkiewicz argues that rhapsody mediates the apparent 'duologue' into a more 'anarchic' dia-logos.

³⁹ Kenneth M. Sayre, "Plato's Dialogues in Light of the Seventh Letter," in *Platonic Writings, Platonic Readings*, ed. Charles L. Griswold, Jr. (University Park, PA: The Pennsylvania State University Press, 2002), 93–109 at 103.

⁴⁰ Hans-Georg Gadamer, "Dialectic and Sophism in Plato's *Seventh Letter*," in *Dialogue and Dialectic: Eight Hermeneutical Studies on Plato*, trans. P. Christopher Smith (New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 1980), 93–123 at 105. Otherwise, 'The assumption that a perfected instrument of designation exists by which everything that one means and thinks precisely could be designated—and this would be the ideal logical language—is a nominalistic prejudice, the untenability of which has in my view been convincingly demonstrated in Wittgenstein's logical investigations' (Ibid., 108–9; Gadamer cites Ludwig Wittgenstein, *Schriften*, vol. 2 [Frankfurt: Suhrkamp, 1960], 289ff).

instances/examples, and scientific knowledge still bear an ‘involvement with sense experience’.⁴¹

What, then, is the fuller context that Plato provides for his account of writing? The key point has already been mentioned: the serious person becomes ‘serious’ not in their writing, but in his or her *activity*. Rosemary Desjardins says, ‘[t]he dialogues...communicate through words *and* deeds; what is more (and more subtle) they communicate through the actual interplay of these two aspects, which constitute, respectively, the discursive and dramatic elements of a dialogue’.⁴² Such a dramatic, dialogical enterprise is ‘one that repeatedly involves the reader in the dialogue that it portrays’, as Gadamer puts it.⁴³ That is, immediately after Plato’s famous comments about having never composed a work of his own philosophy, he says: ‘Acquaintance with it [philosophy] must come rather after a long period of attendance on instruction in the subject itself and of close companionship, when, suddenly, like a blaze kindled by a leaping spark, it is generated in the soul and at once becomes self-sustaining’.⁴⁴ The practice of philosophy—whether in oral or written form—consists of wholistically unifying one’s words and deeds within an ‘ensouled’ life. It is not an instant knowledge, but may be obtained ‘instantaneously’ only after an ‘acquaintance’ that comes ‘after a long period of attendance’. This adheres well with what Gadamer says in his commentary on Plato’s *Lysis*.⁴⁵ That is, the reason for the ensuing aporetic perplexity, which causes the interlocutors to walk away not knowing what ‘friendship’ is, stems from the fact that Socrates’ dialogue partner was too young; in other words, they had not properly become acquainted with one another over a long

⁴¹ Sayre, “Plato’s Dialogues in Light of the Seventh Letter,” 96.

⁴² Rosemary Desjardins, “Why Dialogues? Plato’s Serious Play,” in *Platonic Writings, Platonic Readings*, ed. Charles L. Griswold, Jr. (University Park, PA: The Pennsylvania State University Press, 2002), 110–125 at 117, emphasis in original.

⁴³ Hans-Georg Gadamer, “Philosophy and Poetry” in *The Relevance of the Beautiful and Other Essays*, ed. Robert Bernasconi, trans. Nicholas Walker (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1986), 131–9 at 133.

⁴⁴ *Seventh Letter* 341c-d. Charles H. Kahn, *Plato and the Socratic Dialogue: The Philosophical Use of a Literary Form* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1998), 388–92 helpfully highlights these contextual and crucial remarks.

⁴⁵ Hans-Georg Gadamer, ‘Logos and Ergon in Plato’s *Lysis*’ in *Dialogue and Dialectic: Eight Hermeneutical Studies on Plato*, 1–20.

period of time to have become true friends.⁴⁶ In sum, philosophy entails a ‘close companionship’ with its subject because reason itself reflects a degree of *personhood*: friendship can only be defined in the activity of *becoming friends*; philosophy can only be known in its performative and dialogical act of question-and-answer;⁴⁷ justice can only be defined by the just person in *being just*; etc. All of this does not mean that writing and orality are useless images of the active person, but that they must be seen to be only useful *insofar* as they are images. Notably, Kevin Corrigan and Elena Glazov-Corrigan, remarking on the *Symposium* and the Socratic dialogue in general, state that ‘for the first time in the history of thought, a new genre emerges, which is *conscious* of its function as an image, as of its special representative powers, and of its *difference* from all other literary and rhetorical genres, which turns thought into living speech and character in an open-ended, inclusive way [...]’.⁴⁸ To the question ‘Why did Plato write dialogues’, the answer is found in creating a necessary (but not sufficient) image for recreating the dialogical *activity* or *deed* (*ergon*) of the inquiring person. For now this will suffice for addressing the issue of writing dialogues,⁴⁹ and I will turn to the nature of dialogue itself.

In his dialogue with Theaetetus, Socrates states that the essential structure of reason is dialogical in nature. Thinking itself takes place ‘as a discourse that the mind carries on with itself about any subject it is considering’.⁵⁰ Likewise,

⁴⁶ For further helpful resources on friendship in Socrates and Plato, see Mary P. Nichols, *Socrates on Friendship and Community: Reflections on Plato’s Symposium, Phaedrus, and Lysis* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2009); Catherine Pickstock, “The Problem of Reported Speech: Friendship and Philosophy in Plato’s Lysis and Symposium,” *Telos* 123 (Spring 2002): 35–64.

⁴⁷ For a literary and philosophical look at this form within the context of what is known as ‘reception theory’, see Hans Robert Jauss, *Question and Answer: Forms of Dialogic Understanding*, trans. and ed. Michael Hays, *Theory and History of Literature* 73 (Minneapolis, MN: University of Minnesota Press, 1989); and see the earlier work, idem, *Toward an Aesthetic of Reception*, trans. Timothy Bahti, *Theory and History of Literature* 2 (Minneapolis, MN: University of Minnesota Press, 1982).

⁴⁸ Kevin Corrigan and Elena Glazov-Corrigan, *Plato’s Dialectic at Play: Argument, Structure, and Myth in the Symposium* (University Park, PA: The Pennsylvania State University Press, 2004), 196, emphasis in original.

⁴⁹ For further resources on dialogue in Plato, see Drew A. Hyland, “Why Plato Wrote Dialogues,” *Philosophy and Rhetoric* 1 (1968): 38–50; G. R. F. Ferrari, *Listening to the Cicadas: A Study of Plato’s Phaedrus* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1990); Kahn, *Plato and the Socratic Dialogue*, 292–328; Andrea Wilson Nightingale, *Genres in Dialogue: Plato and the Construct of Philosophy* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2000).

⁵⁰ *Theaetetus* 189e-190a. See Schindler, *Plato’s Critique of Impure Reason*, 255n.89; cf. p. 34.

the Stranger tells Theaetetus in the *Sophist* something similar: ‘thinking and discourse are the same thing, except that what we call thinking is, precisely, the inward dialogue carried on by the mind with itself without spoken sound’.⁵¹ This stems from the fact that persons are interiorly ‘plurivocal’, as William Desmond puts it, for there is a doubling of the self in the same person even in a soliloquy or monologue: that of the speaker and the listener.⁵² If reason itself is inescapably dialogical—universally so—then the form of dialogue is not just ubiquitous for humans, but seems to be the living shape of thought itself, one that requires a vigilant attentiveness. On this note, D. C. Schindler says that the ‘dialogue form intends the reader’s *active participation* because it presents ideas that are themselves still *alive*—or ‘ensouled’ as Plato puts it in the *Phaedrus*’.⁵³ To clarify, this does not mean that dialogues present encapsulated philosophical truths—i.e. a truth that is stable because it has been killed—but as ‘living speech’, active dialogues such as these ‘teach others how to philosophize’.⁵⁴ An excavation of ‘method’ reveals an understanding of truth that tends toward ‘definition’ and ‘division’, as in the approach of Peter Ramus, intent on reducing real dialogue to mere pedagogical method.⁵⁵ Yet, there is also a fine line between the ‘search for method’ and that of a manuduction—the latter of which is an ensouled leading by the hand of a teacher with his or her student. Therefore, it must be admitted that Socrates was not concerned about his own ‘method’ at the ‘meta-level’ by any stretch of the ancient imagination.⁵⁶ Such heavy pre-occupations are those of the

⁵¹ *Sophist* 263e. For more on the nature of this dialogical aspect of reason, see Ronald Hathaway, “Explaining the Unity of the Platonic Dialogue,” *Philosophy and Literature* 8 (1984): 195–208, esp. 204.

⁵² Desmond, *Being and the Between*, 392n.13.

⁵³ Schindler, *Plato’s Critique of Impure Reason*, 36, emphasis mine. See *Phaedrus* 278a.

⁵⁴ The idea of ‘living speech’ comes from the *Phaedrus* 276a. The quotation is from Joanne Waugh, “Socrates and the Character of the Platonic Dialogue,” in *Who Speaks for Plato? Studies in Platonic Anonymity*, ed. Gerald A. Press (Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, Inc., 2000), 39–52 here at 49.

⁵⁵ Walter J. Ong, *Ramus, Method and the Decay of Dialogue: From the Art of Discourse to the Art of Reason*, New edition (Chicago, IL: University of Chicago Press, 2005), 188 and 152–6.

⁵⁶ See Gregory Vlastos, “The Socratic Elenchus: Method Is All,” ed. Myles Burnyeat (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1994), 1–37, here at 1–2. For a critique of Vlastos see Hugh H. Benson, “The Dissolution of the Problem of the Elenchus,” *Oxford Studies in Ancient Philosophy* 13 (1995): 45–112, esp. 49. And see the essays contained in Gary Alan Scott, ed., *Does Socrates Have a Method?: Rethinking the Elenchus in Plato’s Dialogues and Beyond* (University Park, PA: Pennsylvania State University Press, 2002).

sixteenth century and beyond.⁵⁷ For the sake of scholarly convention, I will refer to the Socratic approach in general as the ‘elenchus’. However, I am more concerned with the overall aim of this way of dialogue.⁵⁸ In other words, I am not limiting myself to the (intermediate) goal of truth statements (i.e., ‘What is F?’ questioning).

Gregory Vlastos defines the Socratic elenchus as ‘a search for moral truth by question-and-answer adversary argument in which a thesis is debated only if asserted as the answerer’s own belief and is regarded as refuted only if its negation is deduced from his own beliefs’.⁵⁹ With a slightly different focus, Richard Robinson defines the elenchus as ‘examining a person with regard to a statement he has made, by putting to him questions calling for further statements, in hope that they will determine the meaning and the truth-value of his first statement’.⁶⁰ While both Vlastos and Robinson agree on the definition

⁵⁷ See Ong, *Ramus, Method and the Decay of Dialogue*.

⁵⁸ Because, for instance, not all Platonic dialogues employ it in the same way, and some, such as the *Laws* and *Timaeus* act more in the form of a treatise. Also, Vlastos’ own definition of the elenchus assumes an ‘adversary argument’, so he is forced to create appendices to his own scholarship to attempt to explain why, e.g., the *Lysis*, *Euthydemus*, and *Hippias Major* have killed the elenchus off. See Gregory Vlastos, *Socrates: Ironist and Moral Philosopher* (Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, 1991), 114–19; Vlastos, “The Socratic Elenchus,” 29–37. For an account that assumes a strong ‘agonality’ of the dialogue form which also finds itself indebted to Wittgensteinian language games (*Sprachspiele*) and forms of life (*Lebensformen*), see Jürgen Mittelstrass, “On Socratic Dialogue,” in *Platonic Writings, Platonic Readings*, ed. Charles L. Griswold, Jr. (University Park, PA: The Pennsylvania State University Press, 2002), 126–142, esp. 131, 137, 142. Vlastos’ ‘euthanasia’ of the elenchus is tied to a strict (but traditional) reading of Platonic chronology, which forces him to make such nonsensical statements as ‘So in these dialogues Socrates is only half Socratic’ (Vlastos, *Socrates*, 116). What we end up with, then, are two Socrates (“Socrates ‘contra’ Socrates in Plato” in *ibid.*, 46). Related to this is the hornet’s nest of problems related to the ‘mouthpiece’ thesis that Vlastos constructs. On this see Debra Nails, “Mouthpiece Schmouthpiece,” in *Who Speaks for Plato? Studies in Platonic Anonymity*, ed. Gerald A. Press (Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, Inc., 2000), 15–26, esp. 23–5. Jonathan Lear offers a critique of Vlastos’ method by arguing that a careful look at Socratic irony can actually unite the so-called two Socrates: “The Socratic Method and Psychoanalysis,” in *A Companion to Socrates*, ed. Sara Ahbel-Rappe and Rachana Kamtekar (Malden, MA: Wiley-Blackwell, 2009), 442–62 at 56–60. For further helpful accounts—which I would argue helps prevent such unnecessary hermeneutical gymnastics—see the following: Jacob Howland, “Re-reading Plato: The Problem of Platonic Chronology,” *Phoenix* 45 (1991): 189–214; Holger Thesleff, *Studies in Platonic Chronology* (Helsinki: Societas Scientiarum Fennica, 1982); Holger Thesleff, “Platonic Chronology,” *Phronesis* 34 (1989): 1–26. For a standard account of Platonic chronology, see Leonard Brandwood, “Stylometry and Chronology,” in *The Cambridge Companion to Plato*, ed. Richard Kraut (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1992), 51–89.

⁵⁹ Vlastos, “The Socratic Elenchus,” 4.

⁶⁰ Richard Robinson, “Elenchus,” in *The Philosophy of Socrates: A Collection of Critical Essays*, ed. Gregory Vlastos (Notre Dame, IN: University of Notre Dame Press, 1980), 78–93

of the elenchus as searching and examination,⁶¹ where they differ sharply is on their emphasis. Vlastos seems to stop at the idea that the elenchus is merely the discovery of ‘truth in the moral domain’⁶² and then attempts to trace out the formal, analytic contours into which the greatest number of dialogues can fit.⁶³ Moreover, Vlastos claims that there is a progression in Plato away from elenchus due to his enrapture with arithmetic formal statements. This is claimed by arguing that the *Lysis*, *Euthydemus*, and *Hippias Major* dialogues ‘ethanise’ the adversarial form of Vlasto’s (own) definition of the elenchus, and that they serve to ‘disengage’ Plato from this explicit form—except, that is, for its reappearance in the *Meno* which becomes the ground for an essay into the theory of recollection.⁶⁴

Against what I would argue are very odd interpretive gymnastics on Vlastos’ part, I would argue instead that the elenchus constitutes a philosophical ‘way of life’. For example, Robinson offers two interpretive analyses which I think clarify the Socratic elenchus toward a direction which is more amenable to Socrates’ mission. First, in the *Meno* for example, Robinson suggests that the elenchus is ‘a method of teaching, of instilling intellectual knowledge in other persons. It does not, however, actually increase knowledge, but only prepares the ground for it’.⁶⁵ This paves the way for Robinson’s analysis of the *Apology* where he brings out the well-known declaration that Socrates’ mission is to make people concerned about the welfare of their souls.⁶⁶ The elenchus described thus far by Robinson is therefore less a propositional tool and more of a paradoxical way of *knowing less*. Because Robinson’s narrative points more toward the thematic pronouncements of Socrates during his defense instead of toward the mathematics and recollection themes of the *Meno* (which I would not discount in themselves by any means but would nonetheless not allow to be the

at 78; this is reprinted from Richard Robinson, *Plato’s Earlier Dialectic*, 2nd ed. (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1953), 7–22.

⁶¹ See *Apology* 29c, 28e, 41b.

⁶² Vlastos, “The Socratic Elenchus,” 5.

⁶³ *Ibid.*, 11–29, and see the final formulations of this on pp. 25–9 in his “[A] and [B]” formulations.

⁶⁴ See footnote 58 above.

⁶⁵ Robinson, “Elenchus,” 84.

⁶⁶ *Ibid.*, 86. *Apology* 29d-30b.

thematic *telos* of a ‘progression’ in Plato), Robinson is able to remind us of the way of living in which Socrates comes to realize that the only true knowledge is to know that one is devoid of it.⁶⁷

Secondly in regard to Robinson’s interpretation of the elenchus, he remarks that its very nature ‘is a very *personal* affair, in spite of Socrates’ ironical declarations that it is an impersonal search for the truth’, because in the end, the answerer must be convinced of the conclusions,⁶⁸ even if the conclusion leaves one in *aporia*. Robinson comments upon the *Gorgias*, stating, ‘Whereas in law-courts you have to convince a third party, namely the judges, in the Socratic elenchus you have to convince your opponent himself. Hence the witnesses who are so effective at trials are useless here. The only true witness and authority is the answerer himself; and if he does not admit the fact it is irrelevant how many others do. The result depends not on a majority of votes, but on the single vote of the answerer (471e-472c, 474a, 475e)’.⁶⁹ What is more, Robinson adds that ‘[b]y addressing itself always to this person here and now, elenchus takes on *particularity and accidentalness*’.⁷⁰ In sum, it appears that the third party of the law courts—the impersonal—is actually where Vlastos’ definition appears to reside, whereas Robinson’s definition of the way of the elenchus resides more within the remit of the personal. Robinson, unfortunately, does appear to share the same narrative of the rigid chronology as Vlastos in the end,⁷¹ but against Vlastos’s championing of ‘method is all’,⁷² for Robinson the method of the elenchus is put in its rightful place as a helpful tool and guide for a more primary, personal, and divine concern.

⁶⁷ *Apology* 29b.

⁶⁸ Robinson, “Elenchus,” 88, emphasis mine.

⁶⁹ *Ibid.*, 88–9. There is a parallel to be drawn here between this logic and the continual mission of Søren Kierkegaard to speak to ‘that single individual’. See Søren Kierkegaard, *The Point of View*, trans. and ed. Howard V. Hong and Edna H. Hong (Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 1998), 9–11, esp. 37, and *passim*.

⁷⁰ Robinson, “Elenchus,” 89, emphasis mine. The sentence continues: ‘...which are defects. In this respect it is inferior to the impersonal and universal and rational march of a science axiomatized according to Aristotle’s prescription. Plato might urge, however, that elenchus is the means by which the irrational and accidental individual is brought to the appreciation of universal science, brought out of his individual arbitrariness into the common world of reason’ (*Ibid.*). Robinson is arguing, much like Schindler does in his *Plato’s Critique of Impure Reason*, for relativizing these ‘defects’ within the larger whole which in turn still gives them integrity bestowed upon them by the whole, or the Good.

⁷¹ See Robinson, “Elenchus,” 90–3.

⁷² This is the subtitle of Vlastos’ essay.

A number of commentators have remarked on the fact that Socrates embodies philosophy in such a way that it is exemplified as a 'way of life'. Perhaps most notably, Pierre Hadot observes about Socrates, 'The real problem [of philosophy] is...not the problem of knowing this or that, but of *being* in this way or that way....Socrates practiced this call to being not only by means of his interrogations and irony, but above all by means of his being, by his way of life, and by his very being'.⁷³ Richard Kraut concurs with this observation regarding the life of Socrates, adding in his own way another voice to answer the question, 'Why Dialogue?' when he notes that Plato's encounter with the 'remarkable man' of Socrates is an event to be remembered: 'Since Socrates is above all someone who enters into dialogue with others, and not a propounder of systematic doctrine, the dialogue form is the perfect medium for the expression of his life and thought'.⁷⁴ The dialogue has been seen as both an expression of the life of Socrates as well as an embodiment of the very nature and structure of reason itself,⁷⁵ one that demands attentiveness, companionship, and a long acquaintance in order to finally see this philosophical life 'set ablaze'. In the next section I will address the Socratic tool of *aporia* that is very closely connected to the elenchus, and will attempt to show how the Truth that this way points to is one that is Life.

c. *Aporia: Life in Death*

In this section I start by examining the Socratic logic of *aporia* (ἀπορία) and then turn to recent accounts of the *aporia* of death in Heidegger and Derrida. I show that, even at the end of the dialogical encounter where we

⁷³ Pierre Hadot, *What Is Ancient Philosophy?*, trans. Michael Chase (Cambridge, MA and London: The Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, 2002), 29.

⁷⁴ Richard Kraut, "Introduction to the Study of Plato," in *The Cambridge Companion to Plato*, ed. Richard Kraut, Cambridge Companions to Philosophy (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1992), 1–50 at 26–7. Cf. T. H. Irwin, who says: 'Plato chose the dialogue because he thought it stuck most closely to the essential feature of Socratic argument,' in "Plato: The Intellectual Background," in *The Cambridge Companion to Plato*, ed. Richard Kraut, Cambridge Companions to Philosophy (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1992), 51–89 here at 76.

⁷⁵ *Theaetetus* 189e-190a.

often find ourselves in perplexity and at an impasse, that there is still a personal economy at work beckoning us on toward further life—not the problems of death as such. In this regard, Søren Kierkegaard proves helpful as one who, not only understood the Socratic spirit, but also as one who uses the ‘*aporia*’ of death to spur us on toward earnestness of life. At the end of our perplexities, therefore, we constantly find an inescapably loving, personal presence.

Vasilis Politis begins his study on this topic with the following: ‘It is typical of Socrates in a number of dialogues...to lead the interlocutor towards a state of *aporia*, a mental state of perplexity and being at a loss, about some ethical subject—courage, piety, temperance, virtue’.⁷⁶ Politis discusses two uses of *aporia* in Socratic dialogues. The first use is the more familiar function of Socratic *aporia* as catharsis which causes a mental state of perplexity and being at a loss.⁷⁷ In providing a summary of the character of this use of *aporia*, Politis notes that the meaning of the term signifies a ‘lack of resourcefulness’, or even to focus on its etymology, ‘lack of passage’, ‘lack of a means of advance’, or ‘impasse’.⁷⁸ Likewise, Gillian Rose has pointed out that a literal etymology of the word *a-poria* (ἀπορία) means ‘without a ford’ or ‘without a path’.⁷⁹ The use of the cathartic *aporia* aligns with Socrates’ goal in administering it in the *Apology* (21b): ‘it is to test whether people really know what they think they know and lead them to the recognition that they do not, thus cleansing them of the belief in their own knowledge’.⁸⁰

The second use of *aporia* that Politis treats is one that signifies puzzles and problems, and here he highlights its ‘zetetic’ function.⁸¹ Here the more familiar translation of ἀπορία is evidenced as ‘puzzle’ or ‘problem’, but in the zetetic

⁷⁶ Vasilis Politis, “Aporia and Searching in the Early Plato,” in *Remembering Socrates: Philosophical Essays*, ed. Lindsay Judson and Vassilis Karasmanis (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 2008), 88–109 at 88.

⁷⁷ *Ibid.*, 92–6. Politis examines *Laches* 194a-c and 196a-b; *Euthypro* 11b-d; and *Meno* 80a-b and 72a.

⁷⁸ *Ibid.*, 96.

⁷⁹ See Gillian Rose, *The Broken Middle: Out of Our Ancient Society* (Oxford: Blackwell, 1992), 166, 201, 256. She connects this with death, which will be explored below.

⁸⁰ Politis, “Aporia and Searching in the Early Plato,” 96.

⁸¹ *Ibid.*, 97–105. Politis studies: *Apology* 21b; *Charmides* 167b-c; *Protagoras* 324d-e and 348c; and *Meno* 80c-d, 84a-c.

function ‘the term ἀπορία can refer just as much to what one is puzzled about as to the puzzlement itself’.⁸² The example given is not always about what something is—say, virtue—but the question raised in relation to it, e.g., ‘can virtue be taught?’⁸³ The way in which this latter zetetic form of *aporia* is connected to the elenchus is in Politis’ definition of its function: ‘to generate particular *searches*, defined and *directed* by the puzzle and problem at hand’.⁸⁴ Politis’ conclusion about this second use is that these very problems help direct the higher aim of coming up with definitions in a ‘dialectical search’.⁸⁵ What is most striking about Politis’ ensuing conclusion is that even though he has been at pains to differentiate these two uses of *aporia*, in the end he notes their porosity: ‘No doubt the two kinds of *aporia* are not sharply separate states of mind; rather, there may be a continuous path from the one to the other. Thus a person may at first experience the encounter with Socratic dialectic as confusing, bewildering, and simply a cause of perplexity and being at a loss; but gradually he may come to think that the cause of his perplexity is particular puzzles and problems that he may try to articulate and solve’.⁸⁶ Politis admits that there is ‘nothing obvious’ or ‘inevitable’ about this transition, saying that it is in fact a ‘real innovation’.⁸⁷ In a word, Politis is revealing that such a transition must in fact be *narrated* (as he himself has done in a performative way). Correspondingly, Charles Kahn remarks that the literary device of the *aporia* is employed ‘for reinterpreting the Socratic elenchus as the preparation for constructive philosophy. The reader is to accompany the interlocutor in the recognition of a problem. But the more astute reader will also recognize some hints of a solution’.⁸⁸ Glossing Politis’ analysis in light of my discussion in the present chapter, we find that the nature of *aporia* is analogous to the logic of the way of truth: an encounter with a bewildering question or answer can in fact provide the very direction

⁸² Ibid., 105.

⁸³ Ibid.

⁸⁴ Ibid., 107, emphasis mine.

⁸⁵ Ibid., 108–9.

⁸⁶ Ibid.

⁸⁷ Ibid., 109. As an alternative to his own account, Politis contrasts the work of Gareth B. Matthews, *Socratic Perplexity and the Nature of Philosophy* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2004), 111.

⁸⁸ Kahn, *Plato and the Socratic Dialogue*, 100.

and path (πόρος) deeper into the question itself (and as we will see later, the questioner). The sun, though blinding, illumines our daily activities.

For the remainder of this section on *aporia*, I will address another but related aspect of the question of Socratic perplexity within a contrast between Socrates and Kierkegaard on the one hand, versus the Heideggerian legacy of death on the other. While it is not within the scope of this chapter to enter into a full discussion of the gift, for the purposes of this section, I will briefly address Heidegger and Derrida—perhaps the two philosophers of *aporia* par excellence of the twentieth century. From Heidegger's *es gibt* of Being (co-terminous with time) that comes from nowhere and nobody yet still somehow 'gives',⁸⁹ to Derrida's unilateral thinking of the gift which begins in, through and with *aporia*⁹⁰ (indeed, Derrida explicitly bases his account of the gift upon the shoulders of Heidegger's *es gibt* in his own *il y a*⁹¹), these two thinkers are the gift's most aneconomic expounders. And, I would argue that ultimately there is no coincidence that these same aneconomic thinkers are also so primarily focused and concerned with death as a real determining event within their thought, despite the fact that there *appears* to be an initial paradoxical logic at work within their discussions of death.⁹²

For Heidegger, death is the 'the possibility of the absolute impossibility of Da-Sein [*die Möglichkeit der schlechthinigen Daseinsunmöglichkeit*]. Thus death reveals itself as that *possibility which is one's ownmost, which is non-relational, and which is not to be outstripped [unüberholbare]*'.⁹³ Earlier, Heidegger states that the constitution of Dasein (the human existential defined

⁸⁹ See Martin Heidegger, *On Time and Being*, trans. Joan Stambaugh (Chicago, IL: University Of Chicago Press, 1972).

⁹⁰ See Derrida's responses in 'On the Gift: A Discussion Between Jacques Derrida and Jean-Luc Marion, Moderated by Richard Kearney', in John D. Caputo and Michael J. Scanlon, eds., *God, the Gift, and Postmodernism* (Bloomington, IN: Indiana University Press, 1999), 54–78, esp. 60 and 77.

⁹¹ See Derrida, *Given Time*, 10, 20–22.

⁹² One can think here of Heidegger's discussion of being-toward-death in Martin Heidegger, *Being and Time*, trans. John Macquarrie and Edward Robinson (Malden, MA: Wiley-Blackwell, 1978), 279–311 (§§46–53). Levinas' reversal of the 'possibility of impossibility' in Emmanuel Levinas, *God, Death, and Time*, trans. Bettina Bergo (Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press, 2001). Likewise in Jacques Derrida, *The Gift of Death*, trans. David Wills (Chicago and London: Chicago University Press, 1995); idem, *Aporias*, trans. Thomas Dutoit, Meridian: Crossing Aesthetics (Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press, 1994).

⁹³ Heidegger, *Being and Time*, 294, emphasis in original.

as Being-there, or *Da-Sein*) is the following: 'Dasein is the possibility of Being-free *for* its ownmost potentiality-for-Being'.⁹⁴ The directionality of Dasein, its own 'thrownness' distinguishes its own 'dying' as a kind of death to be distinguished from mere perishing as well as the concept of one's own demise.⁹⁵ Therefore, when Heidegger says, 'With death, Dasein stands before itself in its ownmost potentiality-for-being'⁹⁶—what emerges is the idea of death as the limit at a border.

Commenting upon Heidegger's understanding of limit, Derrida notes that Heidegger's *aporia* of death is indebted to the Greek conception of the 'limits of truth' whose boundaries 'must not be exceeded'.⁹⁷ Death as *aporia* means to abide 'in the very place where *it would no longer be possible to constitute a problem, a project, or a projection*'.⁹⁸ At this stage, those familiar with Derrida's writing on the 'Gift' will recognize the transposition that he makes of Heidegger's work.⁹⁹ Derrida changes Heidegger's 'possibility of the absolute impossibility of Da-Sein' into the 'paradoxical possibility of a possibility of impossibility: it is possibility *as impossible*'.¹⁰⁰ More specifically, this transposition is perceived 'as an impossibility that can nevertheless appear or announce itself as such, an impossibility whose appearing as such would be possible....an impossibility that one can await or expect, an impossibility the limits of which one can expect or at whose limits one can wait'.¹⁰¹ Derrida aims to de-Hellenize Heidegger here in the wiping away of borders within his own radical possibilization of impossibility. By

⁹⁴ Ibid., 183.

⁹⁵ Ibid., 295.

⁹⁶ Ibid., 294.

⁹⁷ Derrida, *Aporias*, 1.

⁹⁸ Ibid., 12, emphasis in original.

⁹⁹ See, e.g.: 'For this is the impossible that seems to give itself to be thought here: These conditions of possibility of the gift (that some "one" gives some "thing" to some "one other") designates simultaneously the conditions of the impossibility of the gift' (Derrida, *Given Time*, 12). It should be added that Derrida is not saying that gifts are impossible, but that, 'if there is a gift', then the gift 'as such' (he particularly emphasizes the 'as such') exists through an impossibility. On this see Derrida's responses in 'On the Gift' in *God, the Gift, and Postmodernism*, 59–60. In *Aporias*, Derrida also emphasizes the 'as such' in that '[e]verything thus lies in this enigma of the "as such" and of the appearing that *at once marks and erases* the three types of limits that we have described: (1) the (anthropologico-cultural) *borders*; (2) the delimitations of the *problematic closure*, and (3) the *conceptual demarcations* of this existential analysis' (Derrida, *Aporias*, 73, emphasis in original, and see 75).

¹⁰⁰ Derrida, *Aporias*, 70, emphasis in original.

¹⁰¹ Ibid., 73.

doing away with the notions of border, closure, and demarcation, Derrida hopes to unravel this braid, leaving it frayed and ‘*without end*’.¹⁰² Derrida’s concluding words on *aporia* itself read: ‘The ultimate *aporia* is the impossibility of the *aporia as such*. [...] Death, as the possibility of the impossible *as such*, is a figure of the *aporia* in which “death” and death can replace—and this is a metonymy that carries the name beyond the name and beyond the name of name—all that is only possible as impossible, if there is such a thing: love, the gift, the other, testimony, and so forth’.¹⁰³ Entailed within this ‘possibility of the impossible *as such*’ is the endless exercise of waiting in expectation for...?

In light of our previous analysis of dialogue and its frequent end in *aporia*, Heidegger’s and Derrida’s focus upon death can only be seen as radically *impersonal* ways to narrate such a perplexity. While it is true to say that the power of death is a non-relationality in and of itself, the truth of the experience of death is not one that we experience only by ourselves, nor is death encountered only as a pure ‘possibility as impossibility’. Death *itself* is not the factor that determines personal incommunicability; the person himself already possesses this unique quality, something that defines us and that we all share. Because our existence is that which is first shared by us all (in similarly different ways, i.e., *analogous*), the diversity of being already bears within it a kind of ‘incommunicability’ which finds its perfection in the human person. The experience of death is, therefore, *shared differently*: both *similarly* in that we all share in the same humanity, as well as *uniquely* in that each person undergoes its own experience. The *aporia* of death is thus not so much a puzzling, radically heterogeneous distinguishing force as it is the differently shared point along the path of shared lives together.

In contrast to this Heideggerian-Derridean legacy of death, I propose a Socratic-Kierkegaardian alternative which creates a real opening, a path not *into* death as an impasse as much as it is a focus upon the way of personal

¹⁰² Ibid., 78, emphasis in original.

¹⁰³ Ibid., 78–9, emphasis in original.

life.¹⁰⁴ In the *Phaedo*, Socrates exemplifies primarily a way of life in preparation for death.¹⁰⁵ One can see that the Socratic way of leading interlocutors into *aporia* does not *per se* mean that one is left literally without a way; rather it can well mean that the paths thought to be so certain were in fact dead ends ‘all along’ and therefore one’s entire trajectory (or at least aspects of it) need to be rethought. As Desjardin’s puts it, ‘This kind of *aporia*—meaning literally “no passage,” “no way out,” “no exit”—is intended, of course, not as an end but rather as a *beginning* [...]’.¹⁰⁶ Similarly, Drew Hyland also states that the aporetic dialogues of Plato aim precisely to ‘drive the reader beyond the dialogue itself’.¹⁰⁷

¹⁰⁴ Kierkegaard’s indebtedness to and love of Socrates is well-known, from writing his dissertation on him (Søren Kierkegaard, *The Concept of Irony with Continual Reference to Socrates/Notes of Schelling’s Berlin Lectures*, trans. and ed. Howard V. Hong and Edna H. Hong, Kierkegaard’s Writings II [Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 1992]) to a final paean to Socrates in *The Moment*: ‘You, antiquity’s noble simple soul, you, the only *human being* I admiringly acknowledge as a thinker: there is only a little preserved about you, of all people the only true martyr of intellectuality, just as great *qua* character as *qua* thinker; but how exceedingly much this little is! Even though over the centuries there have lived in Christendom a few isolated significant thinkers,—how I long to be able to speak with you for only a half hour, far away from these battalions of thinkers that ‘Christendom’ places in the field under the name of Christian thinkers!’ Søren Kierkegaard, *The Moment and Late Writings*, trans. and ed. Howard V. Hong and Edna H. Hong (Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 2009), 341, emphasis in original. For more on the connection between Kierkegaard and Socrates, see the following works: Paul R. Harrison, *The Disenchantment of Reason: The Problem of Socrates in Modernity*, SUNY Series in Social and Political Thought (Albany, NY: State University of New York Press, 1994), 67–120; Jacob Howland, *Kierkegaard and Socrates: A Study in Philosophy and Faith* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2006); Benjamin Daise, *Kierkegaard’s Socratic Art* (Macon, GA: Mercer University Press, 2000); Paul Muench, “Kierkegaard’s Socratic Task” (Dissertation, University of Pittsburgh, 2006); Paul Muench, “Kierkegaard’s Socratic Point of View,” in *A Companion to Socrates*, ed. Sara Ahbel-Rappe and Rachana Kamtekar, Blackwell Companions to Philosophy (Malden, MA: Wiley-Blackwell, 2009), 389–405; Karen L. Carr, “After Paganism: Kierkegaard, Socrates, and the Christian Tradition,” in *Kierkegaard After MacIntyre: Essays on Freedom, Narrative, and Virtue*, ed. John J. Davenport and Anthony Rudd (Open Court Publishing, 2001); Stephen Leach, “Socrates in Hamann and Kierkegaard,” in *Kierkegaard and Great Philosophers*, ed. Roman Kralik et al., Acta Kierkegaardiana 2 (Mexico City - Barcelona - Šafa: Sociedad Iberoamericana de Estudios Kierkegaardianos / University of Barcelona / Kierkegaard Society in Slovakia, 2007), 36–67; and the essays contained in Jon Stewart and Katalin Nun, eds., *Kierkegaard and the Greek World: Socrates and Plato*, Kierkegaard Research: Sources, Reception, and Resources 2 (Surrey: Ashgate Publishing, Ltd., 2010).

¹⁰⁵ Importantly, see the following corrective article which argues against the regnant Nietzschean view that Socrates despised life: Laurel A. Madison, “Have We Been Careless with Socrates’ Last Words?: A Rereading of the *Phaedo*,” *Journal of the History of Philosophy* 40, no. 4 (2002): 421–36.

¹⁰⁶ Desjardins, “Why Dialogues? Plato’s Serious Play,” 116, emphasis mine.

¹⁰⁷ Hyland, “Why Plato Wrote Dialogues,” 40.

With this in mind, while it is true that Heidegger often plagiarizes and then secularizes Kierkegaard's thought,¹⁰⁸ Kierkegaard's own thought about death as outlined in his eponymous discourse 'At a Graveside' turns out to be a radically different approach altogether.¹⁰⁹ Paradoxically, even though the whole discourse seems to be about death, it turns out not to be about death at all. Death is neither defined by equality nor inequality;¹¹⁰ on the contrary, death is simultaneously certain and uncertain which is an earnestness¹¹¹ (or 'seriousness')¹¹² that compels us to admit that death is wholly inexplicable.¹¹³ In the end, 'we should not be overhasty in acquiring an opinion with regard to death'.¹¹⁴ Kierkegaard's discourse on death, in the final analysis, is really concerned with the earnestness of life, preparing for the 'final examination',¹¹⁵ the transforming of one's life, and the caring for one's soul. In a sense, even though 'At a Graveside' is an upbuilding discourse and thus delivered in a direct, apostolic mode of address with his 'right hand',¹¹⁶ Kierkegaard has kept his poetic left 'hand' slightly raised—because his authorship is a single

¹⁰⁸ See, e.g., the appendix to Hubert Dreyfus, *Being-in-the-World: A Commentary on Heidegger's Being and Time Division I* (Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 1991), 283ff.

¹⁰⁹ Søren Kierkegaard, 'At a Graveside' in *Three Discourses on Imagined Occasions*, ed. Howard V. Hong and Edna H. Hong, trans. Howard V. Hong and Hong, Kierkegaard's Writings X (Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 2009), 69–102. For an interesting critical commentary, see Gordon D. Marino, "A Critical Perspective on Kierkegaard's 'At a Graveside'," in *Kierkegaard and Death*, ed. Patrick Stokes and Adam Buben (Indianapolis, IN: Indiana University Press, 2011), 150–8.

¹¹⁰ Kierkegaard, 'At a Graveside' in *Three Discourses on Imagined Occasions*, 86 and 91.

¹¹¹ *Ibid.*, 95.

¹¹² 'Seriousness' is how George Pattison renders the Danish word *alvor* that the Honges translate as 'earnestness'. See, e.g., George Pattison, *Kierkegaard's Upbuilding Discourses: Philosophy, Literature, and Theology* (London: Routledge, 2002), 115. See also George Connell, "The Importance of Being Earnest: Coming to Terms With Judge Williams' Seriousness," in *Stages on Life's Way*, ed. Robert L. Perkins, International Kierkegaard Commentary 11 (Macon, GA: Mercer University Press, 2000), 113–48. Connell points out: 'The Honges translate the Danish *Alvor* sometimes as "seriousness," but more often as "earnestness," paralleling the German translation of the word as *Ernst*. Where "serious" is etymologically associated with heaviness and weight (Old English *swaer* = heavy; also related to Greek *herma* = ballast), "earnest" carries connotations of battle (Old English *eornest* = combat or duel). In contrast, the Danish *Alvor* signifies complete, unalloyed truth. (*al* = all; *vor* = truth, related to the Latin *verus* and the German *wahr*)' (*Ibid.*, 115–16).

¹¹³ Kierkegaard, 'At a Graveside' in *Three Discourses on Imagined Occasions*, 96.

¹¹⁴ *Ibid.*, 100.

¹¹⁵ *Ibid.*, 102.

¹¹⁶ Kierkegaard, *The Point of View*, 36. Charles Guignon notes that despite the lack of an overly religious character to the discourse, it becomes readily apparent when Kierkegaard notes that one is to become equal with God in death. Kierkegaard, "At a Graveside" in *Three Discourses on Imagined Occasions*, 89; Charles Guignon, "Heidegger and Kierkegaard on Death: The Existentiell and the Existential," in *Kierkegaard and Death*, 184–202 at 191–2.

‘breath’¹¹⁷—mirroring the logic of the Socratic *aporia* such that we are left not having any idea what death *is* in the end. For Kierkegaard, the person is commended who has the rare talent of what he calls ‘practicing in his life the earnest thought of death’.¹¹⁸ Notably, the ‘earnestness of life’ promoted by Kierkegaard’s reflections here on a subject that leaves him perplexed (death), are similar to something that G. K. Chesterton was to say some years later: ‘what we suffer from today is humility in the wrong place. ...The old humility was a spur that prevented a man from stopping; not a nail in his boot that prevented him from going on’.¹¹⁹

Accordingly, as a spur to thought, ‘the thought of death gives the earnest person the right momentum in life and the right goal toward which he directs his momentum’.¹²⁰ This forward-moving, goal-directed movement has its basis in the Christian life which John Behr calls ‘a continual practice of death, or rather, of life in death’.¹²¹ Behr bases his approach on the following well-known statement from Kierkegaard’s journals: ‘We only understand life backwards, but we must live forwards’.¹²² Theologically, therefore, the heart of Behr’s work is showing that Christ is only recognized after his Passion, crucifixion, and exaltation, and the disciples ‘did this by turning back to the scriptures’.¹²³ The identity of Jesus as the Son of God, and the life history of the Church itself only makes sense at all—in light of the occasion of a death. Behr remarks that the divine economy of salvation, much like Kierkegaard’s retroactive power prompted by the earnest thought of death, is ‘known only retrospectively from the Cross’.¹²⁴ Behr sums up his project by aligning this insight with his own work: ‘So here we stand, “straining forward to what lies ahead” and pressing onwards in response to “the upward call of God in Christ Jesus” (Phil 3.14), being drawn out of ourselves by the coming Lord, all the

¹¹⁷ Kierkegaard, *The Point of View*, 6.

¹¹⁸ Kierkegaard, ‘At a Graveside’ in *Three Discourses on Imagined Occasions*, 77.

¹¹⁹ G. K. Chesterton, *Orthodoxy* (New York: Image Books, 1991), 27.

¹²⁰ Kierkegaard, ‘At a Graveside’ in *Three Discourses on Imagined Occasions*, 82–3.

¹²¹ John Behr, *The Mystery of Christ: Life in Death* (Crestwood, NY: St Vladimir’s Seminary Press, 2006), 143. Cf. Philippians 3:13–14.

¹²² *Pap. IV A 164; JP I 1030*. Cited on an unpaginated title page.

¹²³ Behr, *The Mystery of Christ*, 22. These ‘Scriptures’, which are spoken about in the Creed, are in fact the Old Testament.

¹²⁴ *Ibid.*, 142.

while looking *backwards* to the Cross as the last publicly visible image of him in this world'.¹²⁵ Similarly, Hans Urs von Balthasar remarks upon the 'martyrial existence' of St Paul where he says, 'So death is at work in us, but life [of the resurrection] in you' (2 Cor 4:11-12). Balthasar comments: 'Paul is a witness, a *martyr*, because the death and resurrection of Jesus give form to his entire life'.¹²⁶ Paul refuses, therefore, to reduce his mission to that of mere words, but proclaims Christ crucified in his own deeds as well. It is in Revelation 1:5 where *martyr* becomes a 'blood witness', however, which then remains the dominant (but no less true) connotation of 'martyr'. 'Throughout the history of the Church', says Balthasar, 'the concept of the "martyr" will remain associated with this life-concluding testimony, even though Pauline theology, which understands the *life* of the witness as molded by the dying and rising of Jesus, contains a more comprehensive concept of martyrdom'.¹²⁷

Thus on my account, the occasion of *aporia* is not one that stops one in their tracks, nor is it simply a perplexing puzzle that enters dialogue; on the contrary, within the ensouled activity of a non-identically-repeating dialogue, life itself is constantly spurred on by the earnestness with which it takes the foundation of its own reality: the life, death, and resurrection of the person of Jesus Christ. It is a kind of '*aporia*' because the resurrected life of a *crucified* person confronts us all, a life that is sometimes experienced as a stumbling-block and foolishness.¹²⁸ On the Socratic account, dialogue aims towards the sparking of knowledge—wisdom alone; when this is transposed into the Christian key, however, Christ as the *Logos* of the dia-logue (*dia-logos*) is one whom all of our own reasons (*logoi*) refer, that is, 'Christ the *power of God* and the *wisdom of God*'.¹²⁹

The conclusion I propose to this section in light of these deliberations on *aporia* is that one only is 'on the way', when one is orientated *toward life*. Being lead into *aporia*, or attempting to figure out an *aporia* (of a particular puzzle or problem) is not in and of itself lacking, because as Politis has shown,

¹²⁵ Ibid., 145, emphasis mine.

¹²⁶ Balthasar, *Theo-Logic*, 2004, II:19.

¹²⁷ Ibid., emphasis in original.

¹²⁸ 1 Corinthians 1:23.

¹²⁹ 1 Corinthians 1:24.

such problems often have within themselves a transitioning element or power that, despite all appearances, do in fact continue to lead one on a path of further discovery, as long as one maintains that these searches and examinations are part of one's 'way of life'. On the other hand, *aporia* does have the potential to run about aimlessly when it forbids a personal giver and personal way of life (as in the explicitly non-relational *es gibt*, or an ever-expectant impossibility as possibility of death). As such, this kind of *aporia* will find that it is only shadow-boxing¹³⁰ within its own impasse of denying all forms of economy. Derrida's *aporia* of death 'as such', in moving beyond the apparent limits and borders of Heidegger's own being-toward-death, only amounts to an endless 'giving' of a content-less 'possibilization' of impossibility. Indeed, there is a deep inability to 'construct a grammar of giving' in Derrida.¹³¹ One cannot see where such an endlessly frayed braid is supposed to lead, nor *to whom* it might lead when the 'metonymy that carries the name beyond the name and beyond the name of name'¹³² is a seemingly name-less goal-less 'goal'—let alone whether this expectation can ever describe a life lived vibrantly, even if tragically. The addendum of 'love' to Derrida's line of reasoning cannot but seem like an afterthought to such an impersonal reflection. As D. C. Schindler notes, because Derrida's *différance* lacks love (in the form of *erōs*) and thus any kind of goal, it is only ever 'on the move' while the Christian-Socratic elenchus—the dialogue—is always 'on the way'.¹³³ In the final analysis, the aneconomics of *différance*, the gift and especially the *aporia* 'as such' are revealed to be inherently *blind* when they are situated within a 'Socratism' without the light of the—and here I would add *personal*—Good.¹³⁴

Only a personal—that is, a *named*—reality can truly make life possible for others, and likewise, it is only a personal Other that can draw me unto its life

¹³⁰ Cf. 1 Corinthians 9:24-7.

¹³¹ Ward, *Barth, Derrida and the Language of Theology*, 193.

¹³² Derrida, *Aporias*, 78-9.

¹³³ Schindler, *Plato's Critique of Impure Reason*, 213n.136.

¹³⁴ Griswold, Jr., "Plato's Metaphilosophy," 155. It is not within the scope of this thesis to also argue for the Good as personal, but D. C. Schindler has done this in a most excellent fashion already, for he argues that Socrates is a stand-in for the Good. See his *Plato's Critique of Impure Reason*, 179-87. See also Jacques Maritain, *The Person and the Common Good*, trans. John J. Fitzgerald (Notre Dame, IN: University of Notre Dame Press, 1972), 28-30.

in the hope of a real expectation, whether it be a personal God or the embrace of a friend. It is also the risk and fragility of such a reality that can let us down on a creaturely interpersonal level, and as such, what becomes the (non-)space of the truly 'impossible' is to renege on a promise (promising being a capacity that only persons have).¹³⁵ That is: to tell a lie. When one acts in such a way or harnesses language in order to *bear false witness*,¹³⁶ disappointment, sadness, betrayal, and slander reign. The real space of the 'impossible' is thus not even an *aporia*, but impossible—*full stop*—precisely because it does not want to go forward; it deceives and desires to cut away or distinguish life. A lie, as that which is impossible, admits of no 'spur' to life, nor a beyond, but merely atomistic solitude: the utter lack of any relation, which amounts to the nothingness of death.¹³⁷ To tell the truth, to promise, and thus to *bear truthful witness* is the risk, based in hope, of an involvement in personal dialogue founded upon a prior reality that calls us toward itself. What makes any of this possible in a seemingly 'impossible' way—as the real *aporia* or *scandal*—is Christ crucified who says: 'For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will save it'.¹³⁸ Or as Dietrich Bonhoeffer puts it, 'When Christ calls a man, he bids him come and die'.¹³⁹ It is towards the beginnings of that call to which I now turn.

d. *The Call: An Aesthetical Analogy*

¹³⁵ On this see Spaemann, *Persons*, 221–31; Robert Spaemann and Holger Zaborowski, "An Animal That Can Promise and Forgive," *Communio* 34, no. 4 (Winter 2007): 511–21. For an expanded account of capacity, see Smith, *What Is a Person?*, 25–61; Harriet A. Harris, "Should We Say That Personhood Is Relational?," *Scottish Journal of Theology* 51, no. 2 (1998): 214–34.

¹³⁶ For an interesting, yet flawed, account of the connection between language and lying, see China Miéville, *Embassytown* (London: Macmillan, 2011). This otherwise brilliant novel rests upon the assumption that language's manifold ability to refer to a myriad of things with a single word is not due to its richness, but instead a lack. Thus the fact that 'that' can refer to 'this' or 'that' particular thing is seen in this construction as a lie, as opposed to many referential instances being *multiply true*.

¹³⁷ See Yannaras, *Person and Eros*, 273–4 (§88).

¹³⁸ Luke 9:24. Cf. John 12:25.

¹³⁹ Dietrich Bonhoeffer, *The Cost of Discipleship*, trans. R. H. Fuller and Irmgard Booth, New edition (New York: Touchstone, 1995), 89.

This section begins by following the path of personal dialogue through the same trajectory outlined in Chapter 4 above: a metaphysical *resolutio*. That is, in order to ‘arrive’ at the personal response of dialogue, we must first acknowledge the personal call that bids the human, the call which is first resounded in and through creation.

If one follows the anonymous commenter on Plato and acknowledges that ‘the cosmos is a kind of dialogue’,¹⁴⁰ one may expect to find that creation itself contains voices in conversation. The very definition of dialogue implies at least two voices:¹⁴¹ one of a speaker and a listener existing through (*dia*) speech (*logos*). If one assumes that humanity is one voice amidst creation, what is the other voice? Is it creation that speaks to itself? Unless creation is ‘schizophrenic’ at its base, then the soliloquy of creation is merely synonymous with the form of monologue. The dialogue of the cosmos must ultimately not be with itself primarily—although when this does happen such dialogues exist between different existents on the creaturely level; rather, the dialogue of the cosmos is primarily between creation and the call of something *other* than creation. And yet if the call is merely wholly other, then it would not be heard at all, for how can a completely ‘other’ sound be heard if not with one’s ears as it picks up the vibrations of air we call sound?

The call must be sensed, at the very least—‘heard’ in some fashion. But if the call is to be heard—let alone responded to—where exactly will the call be located? The entirety of the created cosmos is dialogue, but if everything is calling and the call is located everywhere, the call may not be discerned and will go unnoticed, as in the way that we only feel differences of temperature around us when the surrounding air is distinct from the temperature of our own skin. Accordingly, the call, if undifferentiated, cannot be heard. Below I will use the works of Jean-Louis Chrétien and Johann Georg Hamann to address the location and differentiation of the call. I will begin by providing an exegesis of the first chapter of Chrétien’s *The Call and the Response*. Afterward, I will connect Hamann’s Christological aesthetics to this

¹⁴⁰ Anonymous, *Anonymous Prolegomena to Platonic Philosophy*, 28.

¹⁴¹ This paragraph suspends for a moment Desmond’s idea of the interiorly plurivocal account of the person as discussed above. See Desmond, *Being and the Between*, 392n.13.

discussion in an effort to highlight the dialogical acoustics of the call that shines forth within creation.

Chrétien locates the call of the dialogical cosmos within the transcendental of beauty. Following a tradition started well before him in Plato's *Cratylus*, Chrétien affirms the etymological connection between the Greek *kalon*, 'the beautiful', and *to kaloun*, 'that which calls'.¹⁴² What Socrates discovers in this dialogue is not particular instantiations of beauty, but 'the very source of beauty as such. The origin of the word "beautiful," *kalon*, does not constitute an etymology among others, but is the very origin of language. The word *kalon* is the name of naming: it names that which, in speech, calls'.¹⁴³ The connection is thus that it is the beautiful that calls, but more than this, both descriptions given above of the beautiful and of the call exhibit a kind of 'archē' function where, just like beauty as a transcendental is not merely a bundle of beautiful things, the naming itself in the call also exhibits an 'originating' call.

These 'originary' or 'founding' aspects of the call are evident in Chrétien's tracing of the aspects of the call of beauty. I will outline four of these aspects, the first being the characterizing direction of the call. Following Proclus, Chrétien states, 'what characterizes the call of the beautiful is that it calls us toward itself'.¹⁴⁴ In fact, this call is so originary that we find that it precedes every decision to respond to it in a 'prevenient'¹⁴⁵ manner. 'Whenever we start to answer the call, we have already answered; when we embrace it as a call, it has already embraced us and circumvented us'.¹⁴⁶ Via Philo of Alexandria and Dionysus the Areopagite, Chrétien quickly connects the call of the beautiful to God such that God is the beauty that calls all unto himself. Philo transposes the listening response 'from one kind of listening to another', to a listening

¹⁴² *Cratylus* 416b. Chrétien, *The Call and the Response*, 6–7.

¹⁴³ *Ibid.*, 7.

¹⁴⁴ *Ibid.*, 12. The citation is to Proclus, *Sur Le Premier Alcibiade De Platon*, ed. A. Segonds and A. Segonds, vol. 2 (Paris: Belles Lettres, 1986), 361. In translation: Proclus, *Alcibiades I*, trans. and ed. William O'Neill (The Hague: M. Nijhoff, 1965), 215.

¹⁴⁵ Chrétien, *The Call and the Response*, 13.

¹⁴⁶ *Ibid.*, 12.

that exceeds hearing with all of the senses.¹⁴⁷ Dionysus draws upon the same etymology of *kalon* in his *Divine* names but transposes beauty beyond the impersonal Platonic conception to making God ‘superessential beauty, *hyperousion kalon*, beyond being’.¹⁴⁸ To counteract the Levinasian interpretation of ‘beyond being’ as being separated from being, in commenting upon the Good (which is convertible with Beauty as a transcendental), Adrian Pabst rightly states: ‘The idea that the Good is “beyond being” (ἐπέκεινα τῆς οὐσίας) expresses its superabundance and plenitude, not its separation from being. As such, the Good governs all forms and actualizes all particulars’.¹⁴⁹ With this in mind, ‘God makes each and every being participate in the beauty that he originates’.¹⁵⁰ Chrétien points out that because Dionysus makes the origin of the call the creator God, ‘neutrality vanishes [because] the origin is the Word himself’.¹⁵¹

The second aspect of the call is its infinite excess. There is always an infinite excess of the call over every response and every decision, analogous to the excess described by Blondel between the ‘willing will’ over the ‘willed will’.¹⁵² One always falls short in one’s actual response, in the action done in response to the original call (or the willing will in Blondel’s case). For Chrétien the excess of the call over the response is due to the fact that we are being called as particular persons (not abstract beings) in a chorus of voices.¹⁵³ We can never measure up to the call, but it would be foolish to think that we were ever meant to initially measure up on our own. There is an inherent incommensurability in our response, for we will never correspond perfectly,

¹⁴⁷ Ibid., 14. Philo of Alexandria, *Legum Allegoriae*, trans. and ed. C. Mondésert (Paris, 1962), 195 (III, 44); English translation: Philo of Alexandria, *Philo*, trans. F. H. Colson and G. H. Whitaker, Loeb Classical Library 1 (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1930), 331.

¹⁴⁸ Chrétien, *The Call and the Response*, 15. Pseudo-Dionysius, *Pseudo-Dionysius: The Complete Works*, chap. IV, 7 (pp. 76–7 [PG 3: 701C–D]).

¹⁴⁹ Pabst, *Metaphysics*, 44; Pabst also makes this statement in idem, “The Primacy of Relation over Substance and the Recovery of a Theological Metaphysics,” 553–78 at 563–4. Desmond, *Ethics and the Between*, 5, 9, 158 speaks about the good as an “overdeterminate source.” In the *Republic* VI, 509b, it says that the Good is ‘not only the author of visibility in all visible things, but of generation and nourishment and growth’.

¹⁵⁰ Chrétien, *The Call and the Response*, 15.

¹⁵¹ Ibid., 16.

¹⁵² See Blondel, *Action (1893)*, 134.

¹⁵³ Chrétien, *The Call and the Response*, 19.

and this very incommensurability is indeed part of the very call itself,¹⁵⁴ one which indicates its nature as ‘the immemorial’.¹⁵⁵

The third and fourth characteristics of the call are that every call is a recall (‘each *kalein* is *anakalein*’)¹⁵⁶ and that the response of the call is only a response by non-identically repeating the call. Every created word is a repetition of the divine Word, attempting to repeat itself towards the one to whom it is recalled; the recall is a call toward the beauty of one doing the calling, the Word. Repeating the call is never merely a re-stating or identical repetition, for we do not have access to the pure beginnings of the call that is not mediated and that is thus not itself a repetition via tradition.¹⁵⁷ Furthermore, the very excess of the call and of the call over our response is what causes us to enact a repetition: ‘the excess of the call relative to any possible response or to any act of hearing is precisely what parts my lips again and again in order that I may sing what shatters my voice, what makes me fail to hear the unheard-of that calls us’.¹⁵⁸

The voice is discerned not only by hearing, but by sight as well, which Chrétien goes on to formulate in his short chapter entitled ‘The Visible Voice’.¹⁵⁹ The encounter with the beautiful is furthered in a face-to-face encounter. Despite the move to the visual metaphor, Chrétien emphasizes that this encounter still resounds as a dialogue. ‘Visible beauty becomes properly visible precisely when it speaks to us and we question it. It must speak to us in order for us to see it as beautiful’.¹⁶⁰ It is here, at the questioning of beauty,

¹⁵⁴ Ibid., 23.

¹⁵⁵ Chrétien names the immemorial as that which mirrors the logic of the excess of the call: ‘...the immemorial has for me something excessive about it, an excess that founds me, that senses me and destines me, and is known to me only obliquely, in the excess of being. It is not directly thematized’. From Chrétien, *The Unforgettable and the Unhoped For*, 16 and see 11–12.

¹⁵⁶ Chrétien, *The Call and the Response*, 24.

¹⁵⁷ See Ibid., 25.

¹⁵⁸ Ibid., 31. The ‘excess of the encounter with things, other, world, and God’ lie at the heart of Chrétien’s *The Unforgettable and the Unhoped For*, 121 (emphasis in original).

¹⁵⁹ See Chrétien, *The Call and the Response*, 33–43.

¹⁶⁰ Ibid., 35.

that I want to supplement this discussion by the introduction of Johann Georg Hamann's own creative response and focus upon his *Aesthetica in Nuce*.¹⁶¹

Hamann writes: 'Speak, that I may see you! - - This wish was fulfilled by creation, which is a speech to creatures through creatures; for day unto day utters speech, and night unto night shows knowledge'.¹⁶² The response to this ancient wish to speak¹⁶³ reveals Hamann's own 'aesthetics in a nutshell', viz., God's own speech is communicated to creatures through creatures in which 'the whole of creation is united in a relationship of dialogue and revelation'.¹⁶⁴ Creatures, as part of creation, make up one of the two 'books' given to us by God.¹⁶⁵ The other book is that of the covenant as witnessed to in Scripture:

The book of creation contains examples of general concepts which GOD wished to reveal to creatures through creation. The books of the covenant contain examples of secret articles which GOD wished to reveal to man through man. The unity of the Author is mirrored even in the dialect of his works – in all of them a tone of immeasurable height and depth! A proof of the most splendid majesty and of total self-emptying! A miracle of such infinite stillness that makes GOD as nothing, so that in all conscience one would have to deny his existence, or else be a beast. But at the same time a miracle of such infinite power, which fills all in all, that we cannot escape his intense solicitude! - ¹⁶⁶

¹⁶¹ Johann Georg Hamann, *Aesthetica in Nuce* in *Writings on Philosophy and Language*. For recent accounts of Hamann in English, see Ronald Gregor Smith, *J. G. Hamann, 1730-1788: A Study in Christian Experience, with Selections from His Writings* (London: Collins, 1960); Dickson, *Johann Georg Hamann's Relational Metaschematism*; John R. Betz, "Enlightenment Revisited: Hamann as the First and Best Critic of Kant's Philosophy," *Modern Theology* 20, no. 2 (April 2004): 291–301; John R. Betz, "Reading 'Sibylline Leaves': J. G. Hamann in the History of Ideas," *Journal of the History of Ideas* 70, no. 1 (January 2009): 93–118; Oswald Bayer, *A Contemporary in Dissent: Johann Georg Hamann as a Radical Enlightener*, trans. Roy A. Harrisville and Mark C. Mattes (Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 2012); but see especially the magnificent and scholarly account in Betz, *After Enlightenment*.

¹⁶² Hamann, *Aesthetica in Nuce* in *Writings on Philosophy and Language*, 65. Cf. Psalm 19:2–4.

¹⁶³ On the history of the 'Speak, that I may see you!', see Betz, *After Enlightenment*, 126n.52.

¹⁶⁴ Dickson, *Johann Georg Hamann's Relational Metaschematism*, 91.

¹⁶⁵ See also the helpful discussion in Bayer, *A Contemporary in Dissent*, 67–86, esp. 70–78. Hamann speaks of the books of 'nature' and of 'history' as parallel texts: 'Nature and history are...the two great commentaries on the divine word, and this word is the only key to unlock a knowledge of both'. Smith, *J. G. Hamann, 1730-1788: A Study in Christian Experience, with Selections from His Writings*, 166; cited in Bayer, *A Contemporary in Dissent*, 70.

¹⁶⁶ Hamann, *Aesthetica in Nuce* in *Writings on Philosophy and Language*, 75.

Indeed, Hamann adds, 'Nature and Scripture, then, are the materials of the beautiful, creative, and imitative spirit'.¹⁶⁷ These 'materials' are not on equal footing, however, as Hamann indicates in the quotation above: the book of creation is more general whereas the book of the covenant, or Scripture, is more specific. There is a movement toward more specificity, or rather, to the concrete singular in the Word.¹⁶⁸ The creative spirit that unites these two books together is 'the spirit of prophecy [that] lives in the testimony of the ONE NAME' of Jesus Christ who saves, who is above all other names, and who is the one to whom we should all bow and confess as Lord, the creator God.¹⁶⁹ As John Betz comments,

For Hamann, then, Christ is the key to nature and Scripture, such that when one is "in Christ" these "books," which previously had little or nothing to say...suddenly begin to *speak* (cf. 2 Cor. 3:15). What is more, their speech begins to reveal the same *dialect*—the same "style"—by which creation was first spoken, Scripture was written, and to which Christ's entire life is one dramatic testimony: one "dialect," which is essentially a "coincidence of opposites," of majesty and abasement, glory and *kenosis*.¹⁷⁰

Likewise, Oswald Bayer states, 'In the mediation effected by Jesus Christ, the "exegete" of God, nature and history speak as creation. Jesus Christ is the mediator of creation'.¹⁷¹ There is, then, a continuum of sorts between these two books, but not within a univocal series, but analogously mediated by the prime analogate of existence, Jesus Christ.

Nevertheless, Hamann blurs the boundaries between nature and Scripture when he remarks, 'Every impression of nature in man is not only a memorial but also a warrant of fundamental truth: Who is the LORD. Every reaction of man unto created things is an epistle and seal that we partake of the divine nature, and that we are his offspring'.¹⁷² Nature itself cannot point the way toward its author, but as Hamann shows, there seems to be no nature by 'itself'

¹⁶⁷ Hamann, *Aesthetica in Nuce* in *Ibid.*, 85.

¹⁶⁸ Cf. Blondel, *Action* (1893), 410: "The true infinite is not in the abstract universal, it is in the concrete singular."

¹⁶⁹ Hamann, *Aesthetica in Nuce* in *Writings on Philosophy and Language*, 86–7.

¹⁷⁰ Betz, *After Enlightenment*, 134, emphasis in original.

¹⁷¹ Bayer, *A Contemporary in Dissent*, 75.

¹⁷² Hamann, *Aesthetica in Nuce* in *Writings on Philosophy and Language*, 79. Or, as Dickson translates it 'Who the Lord is' (Dickson, *Johann Georg Hamann's Relational Metaschematism*, 421).

but always a nature within the human creature that *participates* in the divine nature (Hamann footnotes 1 Peter 2:4). Gwen Griffith Dickson concurs that there is not a sharp distinction between the two books in Hamann's *Aesthetica in Nuce*, but instead, 'creation and revelation are coextensive'.¹⁷³ In light of the previous chapter's account of analogy, such a statement needs to be clarified; that is, for every 'coextensivity', there is an ever greater 'discontinuity'. The point of analogy is to pave a middle way between univocity (continuity) and equivocity (discontinuity), with an emphasis upon the latter due to the infinite plenitude of the Triune God. Notwithstanding, at every juncture, at every sensate experience, Hamann shows that the call is always there, beckoning the creature through (coextensive) nature toward the (discontinuous) beauty of itself, to recall the very identity of oneself by confronting the call of: 'Who is the LORD'.

While Hamann does not appear to explicitly acknowledge the etymological tradition of connecting beauty (*kalon*) with that which calls (*to kaloun*), his own aesthetics reflect the very same logic. One can witness this grammar at work in the following quotation: 'This analogy of man to the Creator endows all creatures with their substance and their stamp, on which depends fidelity and faith in all nature. The more vividly this idea of the image of the invisible GOD dwells in our heart, the more able we are to see and taste his loving-kindness in creatures, observe it and grasp it with our hands'.¹⁷⁴ The substance, stamp, and image is the prevenient call in the very creatureliness of our being, which Hamann seems to say we experience in a sensible way—to use Chrétien's language, to see the visible voice uttered to us. To take an analogous example à propos of this discussion, Michel Henry remarks that the abstract paintings of Kandinsky, which possess dynamic, impressionist, and 'pathetic' subjectivities, constitute the cosmos precisely '*inasmuch as they are*

¹⁷³ Dickson, *Johann Georg Hamann's Relational Metaschematism*, 145–6. See also Betz: 'the key to these two books is Christ, who shows them to be intimately related "texts." Indeed, not only do both speak to the senses (in the way, for example, that the Bible similarly speaks through figures and parables); more importantly, both point to Christ, witnessing formally to the same "dialect" and hence to a *common*, ultimately *triune* authorship' (Betz, *After Enlightenment*, 134).

¹⁷⁴ Hamann, *Aesthetica in Nuce* in *Writings on Philosophy and Language*, 78–9.

sensible'.¹⁷⁵ This sensate nature, 'whose essence is Life', is communicated within the dialogical dynamism and emotion of things, such that 'every concrete object is ultimately a cosmos'.¹⁷⁶ As Betz brilliantly remarks, 'In Christ, ... who renews the analogy between God and human beings, we are enabled once again to *hear* the Logos in the *visible* work of creation—as though perception were meant to be, from the beginning, a synaesthetic *religious* experience, and all art were meant to be an innovative *poetic* response to it'.¹⁷⁷ Hamann's 'aesthetics in a nutshell', therefore, when seen in light of Chrétien's own work on the call of beauty, also 'repeats' the very dialogical drama of the cosmos, which is revealed—indeed, spoken—'to the creature through the creature'.

e. *Reflexive Reversal: Personal dia-logos*

In the previous chapter, I outlined the ways in which Yannaras' work falls short in appreciating the Thomistic of analogy. In fact, Thomas' expression of analogy is not antithetical to Yannaras' own articulation. Additionally, I provided a brief look at how Yannaras' polemic against 'the West' is far from accurate (although it does hit its mark in certain neo-Scholastic encrustations of the tradition). In this short section I aim to positively appropriate his efforts as taken from the same work, *Person and Eros*.¹⁷⁸ Building upon the above dialogical insights about the cosmos in light of Chrétien and Hamann, the work of Christos Yannaras is instructive, for he brings together the notions of beauty with the inherently *personal* dimension of the world enacted precisely through the dialogical act. Moreover, it is through following this path that one can arrive at a 'reflexive reversal': that analogical act of judgment which, after having heard the call 'to creation through creation', one may now respond to this call—for the first time—as the dialogical person.

¹⁷⁵ Michel Henry, *Seeing the Invisible: On Kandinsky*, trans. Scott Davidson (London: Continuum, 2009), 138, emphasis in original.

¹⁷⁶ *Ibid.*, 138 and 142, respectively.

¹⁷⁷ Betz, *After Enlightenment*, 134, emphasis in original.

¹⁷⁸ Yannaras, *Person and Eros*.

Yannaras, in remarking upon the incommunicability of the person, names beauty as the category which ‘presupposes the experiential cognition and valuation of the *mode* by which the reality of the world exists’.¹⁷⁹ That is, ‘beauty reveals the mode by which the world *is*, the *how*’ of its reality.¹⁸⁰ Beauty is first experienced not as possession through abstract proofs, but in the context of being related to that which is beautiful. For the same reason that one cannot ‘prove’ beauty, one also cannot ‘prove’ the reality of a person, for each and every person possesses an incommunicability which is their own, yet communicated relationally in the personal distance between each and every encounter. As Yannaras puts it:

This mode of the “personal” uniqueness of beings is beauty, [and] is the reality of nature as “cosmos.” [...] “Cosmos,”...is the appearance of the personal universality of Being, of the mode by which beings are the disclosures of a personal uniqueness and decorum, as presences of beauty. The truth of beings is witnessed to as beauty, as the principle of a personal uniqueness and dissimilarity, which presupposes and discloses a personal creative presence and energy.¹⁸¹

Entailed within the ‘cosmopoeic energy’ is the beauty that manifests itself as the principle of the world’s decorum (*kosmoiotēs*), which cannot be cognitively exhausted, ‘but is encountered by human reason (*logos*) within the context of a personal dialogue (*dia-logos*), a fact of personal relation’.¹⁸² Human persons do not encounter semantic definitions and formulas in the world, let alone other persons. True, concepts can be useful, but as Yannaras rightly says, this in no way exhausts the truth of beings, for inherent in such truth is the experience of personal reality. This reality saturates the universe such that, like Balthasar, there is even an ‘incommunicability’ inherent to things in the beauty expressed within the distance of their own appearing.¹⁸³

¹⁷⁹ Ibid., 75, emphasis in original.

¹⁸⁰ Ibid., emphasis in original. Yannaras adds that beauty is ‘not the *what*’, but I would argue that a fully participatory account as his own should recognize that the ‘*what*’ participates in the ‘*how*’. Alas, his persistent anti-‘Western’ polemic drives such assertions, for he cannot help but see any affirmation of nature whatsoever as somehow ‘purely’ substance-driven and thus, for him, ‘essentialist’. For the sake of argument, I will be leaving out such further clarifications as I believe I have already addressed this issue in the previous chapter.

¹⁸¹ Ibid., 81.

¹⁸² Ibid.

¹⁸³ Balthasar, *Theo-Logic*, 2000, I:81.

Approaching the truth of the world, therefore, arises not only from a particular attitude to the world, but also ‘a *mode* of life and use of the world: the world is the second term and *logos* of a dialogue (*dia-logos*), a personal *relation* directed towards the realization and disclosure of the onefold truth of Being’.¹⁸⁴ According to Yannaras, within the constellation of such a relation, ‘which refers to the basic requirements of human life (the taking of food, the use of matter, art, technology and economics), the human person is in dialogue with the world, respecting, studying, and highlighting the *logos* of existing things’.¹⁸⁵ The personal encounter *qua* personal does not impose utilitarian demands (which would therefore be impersonal), for such an imposition would deny the *logos* of creation: it would deny the personal truth of the world and the human person, mutilating nature and humanity, denying both their own perfection and end.¹⁸⁶ To deny the *logos* of the world would, in a word, be a world without relation. It would be a world where relation to the other would be horrific: Sartre’s ‘Hell is – other people! (*L’enfer, c’est les autres*)’¹⁸⁷ bespeaks of the ontological condition where the ‘original fall is the existence of the Other’.¹⁸⁸ Instead of personal ecstasy—going outside of oneself in love for another—such a relation-less existence knows only the shame inflicted by the other in a ‘tragic loneliness of my existential self-containedness, my inability to relate to the “other,” and consequentially the irrationality of my existence, the impossibility of dialogue, my incapacity to express love’.¹⁸⁹

Where love abounds, however, and where perfect love drives out such fear and shame, recognition and reception of the world’s *logos* indicates ‘the experience of a personal relation. It reveals the world’s *logos* as the second

¹⁸⁴ Yannaras, *Person and Eros*, 96.

¹⁸⁵ *Ibid.*

¹⁸⁶ *Ibid.*, 96–7. To this effect, Yannaras cites Saint Maximus Confessor who says, ‘For nature does not produce perfection through art when it has been mutilated, and when what belongs to it from God on account of the *logos* of creation is cynically regarded’ (*To Thalassius* 55 [PG 90:756b], cited in *Ibid.*, 97).

¹⁸⁷ Jean Paul Sartre, *No Exit and Three Other Plays*, trans. I. Abel (New York: Vintage Books, 1989), 45, as spoken on the lips of Garcin.

¹⁸⁸ Jean-Paul Sartre, *Being and Nothingness: An Essay on Phenomenological Ontology*, trans. Hazel E. Barnes, 2nd ed., Routledge Classics (London: Routledge, 2003), 286.

¹⁸⁹ Yannaras, *Person and Eros*, 267–8.

term of this dialogue-like relation, which can be experienced only as personal communion, a communion of ecstatic-loving reciprocity'.¹⁹⁰

Dialogue is thus a two-fold *dia-logos*: first as an encounter with and through (*dia*) the *logos* of the world as the second term in a relation; and secondly—and this is where the analogical reflexive reversal is enacted in a moment of judgment and faith—dialogue is a discerning of the divine *Logos* in creation which itself is contained and held in and through the *Logos* who was 'in the beginning'.¹⁹¹ This logic runs analogous to the logic traced out by Thomas Aquinas in Chapter 4 above where, after one follows the *via resolutionis* to Being from the vantage point of the primary analogate of being—the person—one then makes an analogical judgment of affirming that transcendent Being itself grounded in a transcendent cause.¹⁹² As the stewards of Creation, human persons respect the *logos* of created beings in a relational encounter which both upholds the dignity of Creation precisely as created in and through the *Logos*, without whom nothing was made.¹⁹³

f. *The Response: The 'We' of Dialogical Personalism*

[T]he matter of the dignity of the human person is always more of a call and a demand than an already accomplished fact, or rather it is a fact worked out by human beings, both in the collective and in the individual sense.

—Karol Wojtyła/John Paul II¹⁹⁴

¹⁹⁰ *Ibid.*, 172.

¹⁹¹ 1 Colossians 1:14-17; John 1:1

¹⁹² Jan A. Aertsen, "Method and Metaphysics: The '*via resolutionis*' in Thomas Aquinas," *The New Scholasticism* 63, no. 4 (1989): 405–18 at 416; Aquinas, *ST*, I, q. 44, a. 2; Rudi A. Te Velde, *Aquinas on God: The "Divine Science" of the Summa Theologiae*, Ashgate Studies in the History of Philosophical Theology (Aldershot: Ashgate, 2006), 132–8.

¹⁹³ John 1:3.

¹⁹⁴ From the essay "On the Dignity of the Human Person" in Karol Wojtyła, *Person and Community: Selected Essays*, trans. Theresa Sandok (New York; Berlin; Bern; Frankfurt/M.; Paris; Wien: Peter Lang, 1993), 179.

The final section of this thesis attends to the dialogical response of the person. While I will not be tracing-out the already well-trodden path of providing a history of the notion of the person,¹⁹⁵ I will be exploring different avenues of what has been known as ‘personalism’,¹⁹⁶ the thinkers of dialogue, and ‘dialogism’ (the latter of which is associated with Mikhail M. Bakhtin).¹⁹⁷ This section will be actively re-translating some of the work of members from the above group, notably that of Bakhtin. Before laying out the plan of this chapter, a few words are in order to explain how the inclusion of Bakhtin helps shed light on the relationship between monologue and dialogue—what we have so far been naming ‘univocity’ and what emerges within the ‘ordering-space’ of analogy.

¹⁹⁵ Kenneth L. Schmitz, “The Geography of the Human Person,” *Communio* 13, no. 1 (Spring 1986): 27–48; Clarke, “Person, Being, and St. Thomas”; Balthasar, “On the Concept of Person”; Ratzinger, “Concerning the Notion of Person in Theology”; Christopher Stead, *Philosophy in Christian Antiquity* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1994), 160–86; Stephen A Hipp, “Person” in *Christian Tradition and in the Conception of Saint Albert the Great: A Systematic Study of Its Concept as Illuminated by the Mysteries of the Trinity and the Incarnation*, *Beiträge Zur Geschichte Der Philosophie Und Theologie Des Mittelalters* 57 (Münster: Aschendorff, 2001), 9–176; Balthasar, *Cosmic Liturgy*, 216–35; Spaemann, *Persons*; Philip A. Rolnick, *Person, Grace, and God* (Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans, 2007), 1–57.

¹⁹⁶ See Mounier, *Personalism*; Romano Guardini, *The World and the Person*, trans. Stella Lange (Chicago, IL: Henry Regnery Company, 1965); John Macmurray, *Persons in Relation* (London: Faber and Faber Limited, 1961); Michael Polanyi, *Personal Knowledge: Towards a Post-Critical Philosophy* (Chicago, IL: University of Chicago Press, 1962); Michael Polanyi, *The Tacit Dimension* (London: Routledge & Kegan Paul Ltd., 1966); Maritain, *The Person and the Common Good*; Karol Wojtyła, *The Acting Person*, ed. Anna-Teresa Tymieniecka, trans. Andrzej Potocki, *Analecta Husserliana* 10 (Dordrecht: D. Reidel Publishing Company, 1979); Wojtyła, *Person and Community*; Alistair McFadyen, *The Call to Personhood: A Christian Theory of the Individual in Social Relationships* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1990); Crosby, *The Selfhood of the Human Person*; Crosby, *Personalist Papers*; Thomas R. Rourke and Rosita A. Chazarreta Rourke, *A Theory of Personalism* (Lanham, MD: Lexington Books, 2005), esp. 23–61; Williams, *Who Is My Neighbor?*; Jan Olof Bengtsson, *The Worldview of Personalism: Origins and Early Development* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2006); Andrew T. Grosso, *Personal Being: Polanyi, Ontology, and Christian Theology*, *American University Studies, Series VII, Theology and Religion* 258 (New York: Peter Lang Publishing Inc, 2007); Darlene Fozard Weaver, *The Acting Person and Christian Moral Life* (Washington, D. C.: Georgetown University Press, 2011).

¹⁹⁷ For the primary texts in translation, see Bakhtin, *Dialogic Imagination*; Bakhtin, *Problems of Dostoevsky's Poetics*; Bakhtin, *Speech Genres and Other Late Essays*; Mikhail M. Bakhtin, *Art and Answerability: Early Philosophical Essays*, ed. Michael Holquist and Vadim Liapunov, trans. Vadim Liapunov, *University of Texas Press Slavic Series* 9 (Austin, TX: University of Texas Press, 1990); Mikhail M. Bakhtin, *Toward a Philosophy of the Act*, ed. Vadim Liapunov and Michael Holquist, trans. Vadim Liapunov, *University of Texas Press Slavic Series* 10 (Austin, TX: University of Texas Press, 1993). For helpful secondary literature, see Katerina Clark and Michael Holquist, *Mikhail Bakhtin* (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1984); Michael Holquist, *Dialogism: Bakhtin and His World*, 2nd ed. (London and New York: Routledge, 2002); Tzvetan Todorov, *Mikhail Bakhtin: The Dialogical Principle*, trans. Wlad Godzich (Minneapolis, MN: University of Minnesota Press, 1995); Graham Pechey, *Mikhail Bakhtin: The Word in the World*, New edition (London: Routledge, 2007).

While Bakhtin's writings at least formally apply to the genres of the novel and speech, his own work, by his own admission, 'must be called philosophical'.¹⁹⁸ Thus, Bakhtin's work will allow for more 'stretch room' within his concepts, many of which have no apparent conflict with theology in the first place.¹⁹⁹ The re-translation of these dialogical and personalist thinkers is necessary for this project exactly where they may fail to be properly analogically-orientated. It would be unnecessary at this stage to nudge each thinker in every case closer to the analogical judgment of 'for however great a similarity, there is an ever greater dissimilarity'. That is, in some cases the presupposition concerning theological dialogue will be one of a more univocal bent between God and the human person; in other cases the concern may not necessarily be theological at all (and therefore may be more 'equivocal'), but will still maintain their usefulness in this study. For now it will suffice to remember that the dialogical personalism I am advocating is only possible as an *analogical* quest; in other words, there is much more that could be said and other avenues to follow as possible analogues, but in the meantime, this attempt, however much it may bear marks of the divine, may very well fail.

In earlier chapters (especially Chapter 3 and in the introduction to the present chapter) I considered the temptations toward radical equivocity in the writings of Levinas, Lyotard, and Rancière; however, I would argue that the primary theological-philosophical temptation is that of *univocity*. I locate this original temptation in the first temptation offered to Adam: 'and you will be

¹⁹⁸ Mikhail M. Bakhtin, "The Problem of the Text in Linguistics, Philology, and the Human Sciences: An Experiment in Philosophical Analysis," in *Speech Genres and Other Late Essays*, 103. Bakhtin says it is philosophical 'mainly because of what it is not: it is not a linguistic, philological, literary, or any other special kind of analysis (study). The advantages are these: our study will move in the luminal spheres, that is, on the borders of all the aforementioned disciplines, at their junctures and points of intersection' (ibid.).

¹⁹⁹ See the introduction in Ruth Coates, *Christianity in Bakhtin: God and the Exiled Author* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1998), 1–24; Alexandar Mihailovic, *Corporeal Words: Mikhail Bakhtin's Theology of Discourse* (Evanston, IL: Northwestern University Press, 1996); Susan M. Felch and Paul J. Contino, eds., *Bakhtin and Religion: A Feeling for Faith* (Evanston, IL: Northwestern University Press, 2001); and Peter Slater, "Bakhtin on Hearing God's Voice," *Modern Theology* 23, no. 1 (January 2007): 1–25. There has also been a rise in biblical studies making use of Bakhtin's work: W. L. Reed, *Dialogues of the Word: The Bible as Literature According to Bakhtin* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1993); Robert Polzin, *Moses and the Deuteronomist: A Literary Study of the Deuteronomistic History* (Indianapolis, IN: Indiana University Press, 1993); Barbara Green, *Mikhail Bakhtin and Biblical Scholarship: An Introduction* (Atlanta, GA: Society of Biblical Literature, 2000); Roland Boer, ed., *Bakhtin and Genre Theory in Biblical Studies* (Atlanta, GA: Society of Biblical Literature, 2007).

like God, knowing good and evil'.²⁰⁰ The Promethean temptation ethically is, as a metaphysical desire, the longing for such a univocity; it is also, simultaneously and paradoxically, to desire one's place in creation as radically sundered from and apart from God²⁰¹ in a moment of equivocality, and in this case we see that without a proper analogical account, violent dialectics of univocal-equivocal oscillations arise. The univocal-Promethean desire (i.e. sin) seems primary. It may be for this reason that in the *locus classicus* of the question on analogy in the *Summa Theologica*, Thomas Aquinas spends more time thwarting the claims of univocity.²⁰² Therefore, in the light of the horrors of the twentieth century attempts to become like God, many of the philosophical and theological responses to personhood have tended in the opposite (and thus reactionary) direction of radical equivocality, radical heterogeneity, and the like. Having more fully attended to the equivocal response of Levinas in Chapter 3, the present chapter will thus devote more of its critique to that of univocity, or for this discussion, that of *monologue*.

The 'monologic world', Bakhtin says, is where an idea is forcibly placed in the mouth of the hero, the place where the idea 'gravitates toward some impersonal, systemically monologic context'.²⁰³ Moreover, because everything is reduced to a single voice, the monological temptation means that the world itself becomes 'a voiceless object of that deduction'.²⁰⁴ In other words, both the person *and* the world become lost within the univocal logic of personal 'monologic'.²⁰⁵ Yet monologue itself can be a wolf in sheep's clothing. Martin Buber warns against 'monologue disguised as dialogue, in which two or more men, meeting in space, speak each with himself in strangely tortuous and circuitous ways and yet imagine they have escaped the torment of being thrown back on their own resources'.²⁰⁶ And this he calls the 'sterling quality of "modern existence"'.²⁰⁷

²⁰⁰ Genesis 3:5.

²⁰¹ Cunningham, *Darwin's Pious Idea*, 403.

²⁰² See *ST*, I, q. 13, a. 5.

²⁰³ Bakhtin, *Problems of Dostoevsky's Poetics*, 79.

²⁰⁴ *Ibid.*, 83, emphasis in original.

²⁰⁵ For other places where Bakhtin outlines the 'monological', see Bakhtin, *Speech Genres and Other Late Essays*, 161–3; Bakhtin, *Dialogic Imagination*, 342–6.

²⁰⁶ Martin Buber, *Between Man and Man* (London: Routledge, 2002), 22.

²⁰⁷ *Ibid.*

The plan of this section will be as follows: I will examine 1) the lateness of the response; 2) the limitations of dialogue in relation to truth in conversation with Balthasar, Thomas Aquinas, and Bakhtin; and finally, 3) the the dialogical possibility for the *communio personarum*.

1) To begin, we must note that the response of the person arrives ‘too late’. That is, as human persons, God has already enacted this response through God’s Word, ‘to the creature through the creature’ of the divine word made flesh, to recall Hamann. Hans Urs von Balthasar says, ‘A response that always comes too late because the deed God carried out in Christ, the bearing away of my sins, has already taken place, before any response was possible, before a response could even be considered’.²⁰⁸ Accordingly, St Paul tells us, ‘God shows his love for us in that while we were yet sinners Christ died for us....while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son’.²⁰⁹ The response of Jesus Christ as the Father’s Word in the Spirit is that which both ‘surpasses and anticipates us’.²¹⁰ It is Christ’s own ‘response’ alone, therefore, that ‘can at once be and bear witness to the truth, because he is the only one who comes from the Father, is sent by him, and “exposits” him (Jn 1:18)’.²¹¹ Moreover, this bearing witness is more than that which is contained within words: ‘it includes a personal commitment, a personal *answerability* for what one declares to be true’.²¹² Thus the personal *work* of the Son in this act of bearing witness is every much as a part of this act as is his own verbal testimony.²¹³

The answerability of the human person—this cannot be emphasized enough—always falls, therefore, within the prior answer of the Word-made-flesh. Our own truthful words participate in the living Word (*Logos*), and our own deeds participate in the life of this living Word. Our answerability thus analogically participates in that of Christ’s own testimony. What’s more, the

²⁰⁸ Hans Urs von Balthasar, *Love Alone Is Credible*, trans. D. C. Schindler (San Francisco, CA: Ignatius Press, 2004), 101.

²⁰⁹ Romans 5:8, 10.

²¹⁰ Balthasar, *Love Alone Is Credible*, 101.

²¹¹ Balthasar, *Theo-Logic*, 2004, II:14. See the translator’s note concerning the word *Ausleger* and its variations, *Ibid.*, II:11n.1.

²¹² Balthasar, *Theo-Logic*, 2004, II:18, emphasis mine.

²¹³ See *Ibid.*, II:18–19.

response of the person is itself within Creation which itself is held together in this same Word (Col 1:14-17).

With this in mind, in a short piece entitled 'Art and Answerability',²¹⁴ Bakhtin inveighs against 'mechanical' understandings of the whole, which cannot properly account for the 'answerability' of one's life. The mechanistic approach attempts to de-unify the whole person externally in an effort to defer responsibility, as 'answerability entails guilt, or liability to blame'.²¹⁵ For it is 'only in the individual person' that an integration of science, art, and life can be achieved in the 'unity of answerability'.²¹⁶ Similarly in Karol Wojtyła's *Person and Act*,²¹⁷ he argues against both empiricists and idealists, stating that the unity of the person is not found in the body itself or in the psyche, but in the locus of moral action.²¹⁸ Without this unity, the mechanistic approach externalizes the connection by disassociating life from art and art from life: one flees from one's own life into art and makes excuses (and vice versa). In response to this escapist mode of life, Bakhtin says, 'The individual must become answerable through and through: all of his constituent moments must not only fit next to each other in the temporal sequence of his life, but must also interpenetrate each other in the unity of guilt and answerability'.²¹⁹ Commenting upon this aspect of answerability in Bakhtin, Michael Holquist states, 'the uniqueness of the place I occupy in existence is, in the deepest sense of the word, an answerability: in that place only am I addressed by the world, since only I am in it. Moreover, we must keep on forming responses as long as we are alive'.²²⁰

Our response comes 'too late' indeed, but this should not hinder our responsibility to answer in the particular situatedness of our location, which is

²¹⁴ Bakhtin, *Art and Answerability*, 1–3.

²¹⁵ *Ibid.*, 1.

²¹⁶ *Ibid.*

²¹⁷ Translated from the Polish *Osoba y czyn* into English as *The Acting Person*. This title, by all accounts, is misleading as it over-looks the tension in the subject-act polarity in the original title. For more on this as well as the generally unreliable status of the English translation, see Kenneth L. Schmitz, *At the Center of the Human Drama: The Philosophical Anthropology of Karol Wojtyła/Pope John Paul II* (Washington, D. C.: Catholic University of America Press, 1993), 59–60n.6; and the note that spans George Weigel, *Witness to Hope: The Biography of Pope John Paul II* (New York: Cliff Street Books, 1999), 174–5.

²¹⁸ Wojtyła, *The Acting Person*, 189–219; Weigel, *Witness to Hope*, 176.

²¹⁹ Bakhtin, *Art and Answerability*, 2.

²²⁰ Holquist, *Dialogism*, 30.

both wholly embodied²²¹ and gendered. ‘Life by its very nature is dialogic’, Bakhtin says. ‘To live means to participate in dialogue: to ask questions, to heed, to respond, to agree, and so forth. In this dialogue a person participates wholly and throughout his whole life: with his eyes, lips, hands, soul, spirit, with his whole body and deeds. He invests his entire self in discourse, and this discourse enters into the dialogic fabric of human life, into the world symposium’.²²² To answer the call not only enlivens the world around us (even giving ‘voice’ to it), but doing so faithfully also recognizes the community of persons, multiple associations, and networks which also inform each and every one of us. But more on this below.

2) Dialogue cannot be *constitutive* of Revelation, otherwise it would betray the univocal logic of the ‘two relating to a third’, which we showed in the previous chapter to not be properly *analogical*.²²³ Rather, dialogue itself must remain analogical, or as Holquist puts it, ‘dialogism is dialogic’²²⁴ in the same way that we have argued that ‘analogy is analogous’.²²⁵ That is, dialogue, just like analogy, must be properly ordered to a primary analogate. Revelation, and therefore *truth itself* as the person of Christ, contra process theology, does not ‘happen’ in the encounter between Christ and the world²²⁶ (aside from, of course, the communication of idioms of the humanity and divinity in the person of Christ); as Balthasar puts it, ‘There is nothing between God and the

²²¹ Mounier, *Personalism*, 10–11.

²²² Bakhtin, *Problems of Dostoevsky's Poetics*, 293.

²²³ This is to be distinguished from other kinds of ‘mediating’, suspending thirds which do not sublimate toward a moment of impersonal univocity. Two forms of this are 1) Buber’s ‘eternal Thou’ and Bakhtin’s ‘superaddressee’ and 2) the third emerging in a fruitful *we* beyond the *I–thou*, both of which are attended to below.

²²⁴ Holquist, *Dialogism*, 181.

²²⁵ See McInerny, *Studies in Analogy*, 95–104; McInerny, *The Logic of Analogy*, 4. See Chapter 5, section a) above.

²²⁶ To take just one example out of many, see Catherine Keller, *On the Mystery: Discerning Divinity in Process* (Minneapolis, MN: Fortress Press, 2008). I would easily affirm most of the first chapter (‘Come, My Way: Theology as Process’) but not ultimately the conclusions of the second chapter (‘Pilate’s Shrug: Truth as Process’). For careful accounts of God’s divine impassibility, see Thomas Weinandy, *Does God Change? The Word’s Becoming in the Incarnation* (Petersham: St. Bede’s Publications, 1985); David Bentley Hart, “No Shadow of Turning: On Divine Impassibility,” *Pro Ecclesia* 11, no. 2 (2002): 184–206; Paul L. Gavrilyuk, *The Suffering of the Impassible God: The Dialectics of Patristic Thought* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2006). Hart puts it well: ‘No: love is not primordially a reaction, but the possibility of every action, the transcendent act that makes all else actual; it is purely positive, sufficient in itself, without the need of any galvanism of the negative to be fully active, vital, and creative. This is so because the ultimate truth of love is God himself, who creates all things solely for his pleasure, and whose act of being is infinite’ (Hart, “No Shadow of Turning,” 195).

creature that might correspond to the “interpersonal milieu” of the dialogicians, for God does not need man to speak to him in order to be an I’.²²⁷ While worldly truth *is* indeed in process, it only is so insofar as it participates in the replete fullness of the Triune life which sustains it in and through the second person of the Trinity. Contra Hegel, God does not need the world to be God (*‘ohne Welt ist Gott nicht Gott’* in Hegel).²²⁸ Recognizing this allows Creation to be the full gift it really is, without pagan necessity.

What is required is the space of analogical distance, for without it, one veers too close to a flat identification between the world and God. Paul Fletcher, in a critical account of Alastair McFadyen’s work on dialogical personalism, shows that McFadyen, too, assumes a tidy, direct identity between human persons and the divine persons. As Fletcher rightly remarks,

There is not here any concession to the doctrine of creation and, accordingly, to the fact that the structure of divine-human dialogue might be understood as a gift that maintains a distance between God and humanity while, at the same time, enigmatically marks the immediacy of God. The distance and closeness of God is, of course, analogous to intersubjective dialogue but this analogy must incorporate the manifest dissimilarity of relations because of the status of the participants. In this sense, the commitment to the distinction between immanent and economic Trinities provides something more than a heuristic device: it offers something like the co-ordinates by which the earthly pilgrimage can be negotiated.²²⁹

It is for this reason that David Bentley Hart also says that the distinction between the immanent and economic Trinity must itself be the distance of analogy.²³⁰

At a more technical level, Balthasar elaborates why dialogue cannot be understood univocally within the dialogical principle. ‘Human beings share a common language, even if each person can leave his own creative stamp on it. But between God and man—when it is a matter of genuine personal self-

²²⁷ Balthasar, *Theo-Logic*, 2004, II:66–7.

²²⁸ ‘For God is likewise the finite and I am likewise the infinite; God returns to himself in the I as what sublates itself as finite, and he *is* God only as this return. Without the world God is not God’. G. W. F. Hegel, *Lectures on the Philosophy of Religion: Vol I: Introduction and the Concept of Religion*, ed. Peter C. Hodgson (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2008), 308n.97, emphasis in original.

²²⁹ Paul Fletcher, *Disciplining the Divine: Toward an (Im)political Theology* (Surrey: Ashgate, 2009), 92; commenting upon McFadyen, *The Call to Personhood*, 275. I am indebted to John W. Wright for bringing Fletcher’s helpful text to my attention.

²³⁰ Hart, *The Beauty Of The Infinite*, 165–6.

disclosure and not just a vague, closed knowledge *about* the other—the only language possible is the Word of God, and this language is possible only if God freely chooses to make himself intelligible to man in his Word by interpreting to him the Word that he speaks'.²³¹ Again, this hearkens both to Hamann's dialogue of 'to the creature through the creature'²³² and Yannara's account of *dia-logic*. The failure of the above dialogical (or even 'process') accounts is that they assume that 'the reciprocal revelation in love becomes coextensive with the understanding we can achieve on the basis of nature'.²³³ In other words, contrary the intention of the dialogicians' attempt to uphold the status of the person, their unrecognized univocal presuppositions flatten out the difference between divine and human persons.

Christologically speaking, to ascribe such a flat personalism between Christ and human persons would be to analogously repeat the heresy of monophysitism, which assumes that there is only one 'nature' in Christ and thus the union of the Son happens at the 'level' of nature.²³⁴ A proper Christian personalism, therefore, would uphold with Thomas Aquinas and the tradition that the union took place in the *person* of Christ.²³⁵ But again, one must be careful and not reduce this to a 'pure' personalism outside of the analogical interval, for even the person of Christ in the incarnation does not assume a person or a man,²³⁶ but the *nature* of humanity.²³⁷ Otherwise the errors of Eutyches and Dioscorus (one nature 'out of' two natures as opposed to two natures 'in' one person) or Nestorius and Theodore of Mopsuestia (separating persons of God and man) lead to there being two 'persons' in the person of Christ.²³⁸ Both cases, and that of the anthropological reductive tendencies of the dialogicians (at least the Christian ones like Ebner according to Balthasar) cannot fully account for the truth of the person because of a

²³¹ Balthasar, *Love Alone Is Credible*, 47–8, emphasis in original. Balthasar specifically warns against the work of Emil Brunner, *Wahrheit als Begegnung* (Zurich: Zwingli-Verlag, 1938).

²³² Balthasar remarks that Hamann and Kierkegaard were among the few 'witnesses' who did not reduce the reception of the Word of God to mere subjectivity (Balthasar, *Love Alone Is Credible*, 48).

²³³ *Ibid.*, 47.

²³⁴ Cf. *ST*, III, q. 2, a. 1.

²³⁵ *ST*, III, q. 2, a. 2.

²³⁶ On not assuming a person, see *ST*, III, q. 4, 2; on not assuming a man, see *ST*, III, q. 4, a. 3.

²³⁷ *ST*, III, q. 4, a. 2 s. c.

²³⁸ *ST*, III, q. 2, a. 6; q. 4, a. 2. For a thorough accounting of the heresies relating to these figures see Riches, *Christ, the End of Humanism*.

misunderstanding of the analogical ordering contained within the relationship of one's nature to their unified personal center. Thomas says that a suppositum and nature really differ in that which possesses matter and form, which means that one would commit an error to say that 'this man is his manhood'.²³⁹ But in the divine person of Christ, the nature and suppositum are the same (but different 'only in our way of thinking'); although 'person' still has a different meaning from 'nature',²⁴⁰ for, insofar as human nature does not exist separately on its own, it was assumed 'in something more perfect, viz. in the Person of the Word'.²⁴¹ A person *reduced* to its subjectivity or reciprocity is still a reduction to a nature, which is unacceptable both for the human and for the divine person of the *Logos*, the latter of which *is* the filial relation of the Son to the Father as the single, unified, person of Christ.²⁴² To flatten out nature and person in God, therefore, would amount to modalism. Dialogue happens at the level of the relation, that is, the person who 'has' a nature.

What the above amounts to for Balthasar, is that the dangers of thinkers such as Franz Rosenzweig, Martin Buber, and Ferdinand Ebner ultimately 'slide into a mere two-way monologue (with a religious background, to be sure)'—this impulse itself stemming from an either/or decision of the excluded middle.²⁴³ A dialogue will never continue on as a dialogue if it persists as a relation between two 'points of reference';²⁴⁴ that is, dialogue is never a mere *duologue*.

²³⁹ *ST*, III, q. 2, a. 2.

²⁴⁰ *Ibid.* Likewise, see Balthasar's comments: 'This relationship is the reason that it is, on the one hand, "impossible to think of a hypostasis without a nature" and that no nature, on the other hand, can simply coincide with its hypostasis. Both concepts necessarily exclude one another, even in God'. Balthasar, *Cosmic Liturgy*, 223; quotations are from St Maximus Confessor, *Opuscula*, [PG 91:246a]. Karol Wojtyła remarks that in the early centuries of Christianity, 'what was especially needed was a concept of person and an understanding of the relation that occurs between person and nature'. See his 'Thomistic Personalism' in *Person and Community*, 165–75 at 166.

²⁴¹ *ST*, III, q. 2, a. 2 ad 3.

²⁴² *ST*, I, q. 40, a. 1 and ad 1.

²⁴³ Balthasar, *Theo-Logic*, 2004, II:62, and see 50–9 for his consideration of Rosenzweig, Buber, and Ebner. He also rehearses his examination of these figures from a different standpoint in *Theo-Drama: Theological Dramatic Theory: Prolegomena*, trans. Graham Harrison, vol. I (San Francisco, CA: Ignatius Press, 1988), 632–43.

²⁴⁴ On this see Michael Welker, "Relation: Human and Divine," in *The Trinity and an Entangled World: Relationality in Physical Science and Theology*, ed. John Polkinghorne (Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 2010), 157–67.

What is missing, therefore, is a better analogy of personal dialogue which Balthasar locates in the paradigm of ‘fruitfulness’.²⁴⁵ It is in fruitfulness that he sees ‘a moment of genuine *imago Trinitatis*’.²⁴⁶ As Balthasar puts it, ‘On the intellectual plane, the dialogicians content themselves with reflecting on the original distance and relation between man and woman..., without attending to the organic *and* personal fruitfulness of the two’.²⁴⁷ Emmanuel Levinas helpfully articulates this reality as one of *fecundity*, which is what he calls our ‘relation with such a future [that is] irreducible to the power over possibles’.²⁴⁸ Fecundity names the adventure where the discontinuity engendered from the fruitful third remains nonetheless a part of one’s own future, one’s shared search and desire.²⁴⁹

More attention should have been paid, for Balthasar, to the fruitfulness in the Logos’ involvement with personal encounter. It is the kind of fruitfulness that Catherine Pickstock sees prefigured in an analogous sense in Plato’s *Symposium*, in the emergence of the third which moves beyond the deadlock of a binary reciprocity: ‘What any two desire in desiring a union is not merely this union, but always also the fruit of this union in whatever sense, something that is both them and neither of them: a baby, a work of practice or understanding, a new ethos that others may also inhabit’.²⁵⁰ Levinas adds: ‘That infinite being not be a possibility enclosed within the separated being, but that it be produced as fecundity, involving, therefore, the alterity of the Beloved, indicates the vanity of pantheism’.²⁵¹ The infinity of the other in this dialogical *we* is what Levinas Moving beyond the realm of pure self-reference (of *αυτός*) into that of the self-donative love of the person²⁵² involves,

²⁴⁵ See the helpful discussion in John O’Donnell, “The Trinity as Divine Community: A Critical Reflection Upon Recent Theological Developments,” *Gregorianum* 69, no. 1 (1988): 5–34 at 29–32.

²⁴⁶ Balthasar, *Theo-Logic*, 2004, II:60.

²⁴⁷ *Ibid.*, II:60–1, emphasis in original.

²⁴⁸ Levinas, *Totality and Infinity*, 267.

²⁴⁹ *Ibid.*, 268. In this sense, Levinas is more properly ‘analogical’ when speaking about the fruitfulness of fecundity.

²⁵⁰ Catherine Pickstock, “Eros and Emergence,” *Telos* 127 (Spring 2004): 97–118 at 111. Pickstock arrives at these insights independently from Balthasar’s prompting, although Balthasar himself also refers to the Platonic ‘begetting in the beautiful’ (Balthasar, *Theo-Logic*, 2004, II:62).

²⁵¹ Levinas, *Totality and Infinity*, 269.

²⁵² Kenneth L. Schmitz, “Selves and Persons: A Difference of Loves?,” *Communio* 18, no. 2 (1991): 183–206. The article explores the tension between the two, suggesting that we are

therefore, a reference to the interpersonal *we* of dialogue. In light of the outward mission of fruitfulness, Balthasar speaks of the child as the personal gift of the parents as born in mutual love. ‘In this sense the child can be seen as an image of the Holy Spirit, the “We” of the ever-greater fruitfulness of the love of the Father and the Son. In one place, Balthasar speaks of the Holy Spirit as the “We, the eternal dialogue of the Father and the Son”’.²⁵³

To be sure, in Balthasar there are multiple analogies for the person and understanding his or her analogical place within the whole. Not only is Balthasar’s anthropology self-described as a ‘meta-anthropology’ where the person both ‘sums up the world and surpasses it’,²⁵⁴ but he also employs the similarly ‘fruitful’ analogy of ‘person as mission’ or ‘vocation’ in his *Theo-Drama* (and here Buber is seen in a more positive light, where ‘all revelation is vocation and mission’).²⁵⁵ Like Thomas’ identification of the divine persons with their relations, for Balthasar, ‘in Jesus, his Person is one with his mission—within the reciprocal relationship he enjoys with the Father who sends him and the Holy Spirit who fosters communication between them’.²⁵⁶ Due to the infinite fecundity of the fruitfulness of the Trinity, in the created sphere there are countless images of such human transcendence which ‘burst[s] the closed model’,²⁵⁷ and so much more could be said about Balthasar’s emphasis on mission. In a statement with which Balthasar would surely agree, Levinas says, ‘Fecundity is part of the very drama of the I’.²⁵⁸

‘called to be both *substance and person, both self-reference and self-donation*’ (Ibid., 201, emphasis in original).

²⁵³ O’Donnell, “The Trinity as Divine Community,” 31; citing Hans Urs von Balthasar, *Spiritus Creator* (Einsiedeln: Johannes-Verlag, 1974), 225. O’Donnell also highlights the work of Heribert Mühlen who articulates a dialogical ‘we’ as analogous the person of the Holy Spirit (O’Donnell, “The Trinity as Divine Community,” 30). See Heribert Mühlen, *Der Heilige Geist Als Person* (Münster: Aschendorff, 1963); idem, *Una Mystica Persona* (München: Verlag Ferdinand Schöningh, 1967).

²⁵⁴ Hans Urs von Balthasar, “A Resume of My Thought,” in David L. Schindler, ed., *Hans Urs Von Balthasar: His Life and Work* (San Francisco, CA: Ignatius Press, 1991), 3; as cited in Schindler, *Hans Urs Von Balthasar and the Dramatic Structure of Truth*, 257–8, and see 294. See also Bieler, “Meta-anthropology and Christology: On the Philosophy of Hans Urs Von Balthasar.”

²⁵⁵ Cited in Balthasar, *Theo-Drama*, 1988, I:636. The Ronald Gregor Smith translation reads: ‘All revelation is summons and sending’ (Martin Buber, *I and Thou*, trans. Ronald Gregor Smith, 2nd ed. [London: Continuum, 2004], 87).

²⁵⁶ Balthasar, *Theo-Drama*, 1992, III:511.

²⁵⁷ Ibid., III:526. Levinas also links fecundity to transcendence. See Levinas, *Totality and Infinity*, 274–77.

²⁵⁸ Levinas, *Totality and Infinity*, 273.

For now I will close this section with a summary of his own thoughts on the matter: ‘Participation in the mission of Christ [...]—that would be the actual core of the reality of the person’.²⁵⁹ That is, to be devoted to one’s role to such an extent that one enters it and ‘become[s] absorbed in it’,²⁶⁰ which happens in a paradoxical rhythm of both being and becoming.²⁶¹ It is in the person of Christ wherein the ‘I’-name of the *I* and *Thou* relationship is ‘uniquely and ineffably one’, not merely by earthly means, but in an ever-greater way.²⁶² Based upon the analogical participation of the ‘One in whom person and mission are identical’, they live out their being within creation by living out their ‘personalizing mission’ so that ‘they may fulfill their election; thus they can become what in God’s sight they always are and always have been’.²⁶³

3) In this final section, I turn to the vocation of the human person within the ‘called’ body of human persons. I will be primarily following the thought of Karol Wojtyła / Pope John Paul II²⁶⁴ in his articulation of the *communio personarum*. The main point of reference is the Vatican II document *Gaudium et Spes* §24,²⁶⁵ which points to Christ’s prayer of unity in John 17, which states that the prayer ‘has opened up new horizons closed to human reason by implying that there is a certain parallel between the union existing among the divine persons and the union of the sons of God in truth and love’.²⁶⁶ The fruitfulness of divine persons must always be affirmed as *unified* in one God in the love that God is, which itself is communicated to us from the Father to the Son in the Spirit. The human person, therefore, can only discover the truth of him- or herself in an act of self-donation. The greatest commandment to

²⁵⁹ Balthasar, “On the Concept of Person,” 18–26 at 25.

²⁶⁰ Balthasar, *Theo-Drama*, 1988, I:68.

²⁶¹ Balthasar, *Theo-Drama*, 1992, III:159.

²⁶² Balthasar, *Theo-Drama*, 1988, I:645–6.

²⁶³ Balthasar, *Theo-Drama*, 1992, III:270.

²⁶⁴ For helpful secondary sources on the thought of Wojtyła/JPII, see Schmitz, *At the Center of the Human Drama*; John M. McDermott, ed., *The Thought of Pope John Paul II: A Collection of Essays and Studies* (Rome: E. P. U. G., 1993); Rocco Buttiglione, *Karol Wojtyła: The Thought of the Man Who Became Pope John Paul II*, trans. Paolo Guietti and Francesca Aran Murphy (Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1997); Weigel, *Witness to Hope*.

²⁶⁵ Weigel points out that there is an ‘intense focus on the human person, evident in both *Dignitatis Humanae* and *Gaudium et Spes*’ (Weigel, *Witness to Hope*, 171).

²⁶⁶ Flannery OP, *Vatican Council II*, 925.

love God and one's neighbor thus entails that 'God desired that all men should form one family and deal with each other in a spirit of brotherhood'.²⁶⁷

The final sentence of §24 states: 'man can fully discover his true self only in a sincere giving of himself'.²⁶⁸ Wojtyła finds inspiration in this, remarking that this provides the core of how one is involved in an act of self-determination by paradoxically giving oneself away. He says, 'it is precisely when one becomes a gift for others that one most fully becomes oneself'.²⁶⁹ When the person, as a '*suppositum*' that experiences itself as incomplete,²⁷⁰ then takes action by transcending oneself in a giving of him- or herself over in morally good actions, they 'become good' and find their own self-fulfillment in this act.²⁷¹ As Kenneth Schmitz remarks, 'Only in transcendence do we go beyond ourselves toward the promise of each one's unique humanity. Part of our fulfillment consists in a horizontal transcendence, that is, in our going out to the things around us, in coming to know them, in interacting with them and being affected by them. But such horizontal transcendence is only a condition of our fulfillment: it is not its key'.²⁷²

That is, the horizontal transcendence of the interpersonal, self-donative relation is only made possible by the 'third', which is in fact not a third, but *first*: the vertical transcendence of the person of the Logos within all of our encounters. Peter Slater provides commentary on this logic in the work of Bakhtin: 'The interlocutory third is not a numerical third any more than dialogue need be only between two people. What is "third" in every dialogic process, in addition to authors and readers, or speakers and hearers, is most often in the background. It is not a dialectical third correlating two parties to make one composite party. It is a consummating third fulfilling those encountering each other historically in their differences as well as their commonalities',²⁷³ This third, contrary to Hegel, is not synthesizing, but is a consummating divine third who 'does not merge or absorb the dialogue partners. It "overshadows" us physico-spiritually, sustaining and respecting

²⁶⁷ Ibid.

²⁶⁸ Ibid.

²⁶⁹ Wojtyła, 'The Personal Structure of Self-Determination', in *Person and Community*, 194.

²⁷⁰ Wojtyła, 'The Person: Subject and Community' in Ibid., 233.

²⁷¹ Wojtyła, 'The Person: Subject and Community' in Ibid., 235, 233.

²⁷² Schmitz, *At the Center of the Human Drama*, 86.

²⁷³ Slater, "Bakhtin on Hearing God's Voice," 9.

our differences'.²⁷⁴ At the same time, it is a consummating third who is kenotically self-donative, even when grace for ourselves is lacking and our self-fulfillment is therefore wanting. Bakhtin says: 'God is now the heavenly father who is *over me* and can be merciful to me and justify me where I, from within myself, cannot be merciful to myself and cannot justify myself in principle, as long as I remain pure before myself. What I must be for the other, God is for me'.²⁷⁵ Failing our own ability to respond even to ourselves, God has already answered, making our own answers possible, akin to Buber's 'eternal Thou'²⁷⁶ or Bakhtin's 'superaddressee'.²⁷⁷ In this sense, God's paradoxical continuous-yet-ever-greater in-breaking into our lives shows us the patience needed both to overcome our own alienation from ourselves, but also our alienation from others. What is required, and what stands in contrast to alienation, is personal participation.²⁷⁸

It is not enough to be a member of one's communities, as if common interests were enough to maintain cohesive unity;²⁷⁹ what is needed, on the contrary, is an emphasis on the other as neighbor and friend. Wojtyła says, 'To participate in the humanity of another human being means to be vitally related to the other as a particular human being, and not just related to what makes the other (*in abstracto*) a human being. This is ultimately the basis for the whole distinctive character of the evangelical concept of *neighbor*'.²⁸⁰ Participating in the humanity another person necessitates a porous regard for the other and for oneself in a way that one also sees oneself as a neighbor. What this means is that, insofar as we participate in each other's humanity, we must recognize that we cannot subsist on our own in an autonomous, self-constructing way. Bakhtin's concept of 'transgression' (or 'extralocality') is helpful here:

²⁷⁴ Ibid.

²⁷⁵ Bakhtin, "Author and Hero in Aesthetic Activity" in *Art and Answerability*, 56.

²⁷⁶ Buber, *I and Thou*, 14, 61, 64, and *passim*.

²⁷⁷ Bakhtin, "The Problem of the Text" in *Speech Genres and Other Late Essays*, 126. 'The aforementioned third party is not any mystical or metaphysical being (although, given a certain understanding of the world, he can be expressed as such)—he is a constitutive aspect of the whole utterance, who, under deeper analysis, can be revealed in it' (Ibid., 126–7). For an account comparing Buber and Bakhtin, which points this connection out (amongst others), see Maurice Friedman, "Martin Buber and Mikhail Bakhtin: The Dialogue of Voices and the Word That Is Spoken," *Religion & Literature* 33, no. 3 (Autumn 2001): 25–36.

²⁷⁸ Wojtyła, 'The Person: Subject and Community' in *Person and Community*, 238. See also *idem*, 'Participation or Alienation?' in Ibid., 197–207.

²⁷⁹ Schmitz, *At the Center of the Human Drama*, 88.

²⁸⁰ Wojtyła, 'The Person: Subject and Community' in *Person and Community*, 237, emphasis in original. For a brief discussion of participation, see Weigel, *Witness to Hope*, 176.

‘What enables us to cross boundaries is our answering others and addressing them in specific contexts resonant with myriad ramifications’.²⁸¹

What ‘transgression’ refers to is that we cannot see ourselves without another’s perspective: we cannot see the back of our head when getting a new haircut (without the second mirror being held up behind us), we cannot notice all of our insecurities or lack of empathy for each other (‘Doctor, you really showed no regard for the patient after the surgery’), in other words, we do not exist *sub specie aeterni* to ourselves, to repeat Kierkegaard.²⁸² One cannot be ‘transgressive’ to themselves, as Clark and Holquist put it.²⁸³ It is not, therefore, that we merely let each other know about the piece of fuzz sticking humorously to their hair, or that we need just point out one another’s flaws in an effort to ‘inform’ them (‘just so you know...’), which itself easily slides into insulting pedantry; but constructively, in the sense of an upbuilding, that which is transgressive has ‘the function of *consuming*’.²⁸⁴ A single consciousness of one person does not suffice: ‘Aesthetic activity *proper* comes into effect with the moment of *creative love* for the content (the life) which has been co-experienced, i.e., of that love which brings forth an aesthetic form for the co-experienced life that is transgressive to that life’.²⁸⁵ Participating in the humanity of the other builds each other up by respecting the freedom and dignity of each person such that their gifts are recognized and their capacity to flourish is upheld. Examples which beautifully reflect this reality are the L’Arche communities (as started by Jean Vanier),²⁸⁶ the writings on disability and friendship by Hans Reinders,²⁸⁷ and the Economy of Communion as

²⁸¹ Slater, “Bakhtin on Hearing God’s Voice,” 5. For helpful remarks on the concept of transgression, see Holquist, *Dialogism*, 32–3; Todorov, *Mikhail Bakhtin: The Dialogical Principle*, 95.

²⁸² Søren Kierkegaard, *Concluding Unscientific Postscript*, trans. and ed. Howard V. Hong and Edna H. Hong, vol. 1, Kierkegaard’s Writings XII (Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 1992), esp. 362, 301, 305–9, 329, and see 81, 171, 192.

²⁸³ Clark and Holquist, *Mikhail Bakhtin*, 79.

²⁸⁴ Bakhtin, ‘Author and Hero in Aesthetic Activity’ in *Art and Answerability*, 26–7, emphasis in original.

²⁸⁵ Bakhtin, ‘Author and Hero in Aesthetic Activity’ in *Ibid.*, 86, emphases in original.

²⁸⁶ Jean Vanier, *The Challenge of L’Arche* (London: Darton, Longman & Todd, 1982); Jean Vanier, *Community and Growth*, 2nd ed. (New York and Mahway, NJ: Paulist Press, 1989); Jean Vanier, *An Ark for the Poor: The Story of L’Arche* (Toronto: Novalis, 1995); Jean Vanier, *The Heart of L’Arche: A Spirituality for Every Day* (London: SPCK Publishing, 2013).

²⁸⁷ Reinders, *Receiving the Gift of Friendship*. I am indebted to Kenneth Oakes for bringing this important book to my attention.

begun by the Focolare movement.²⁸⁸ In providing a gift to one in need, forgiving a sin, loving the other, no matter how stubborn they may be on any particular issue: what all these having in common ‘is, on the one hand, the transredient gift bestowed upon a recipient of the gift, and, on the other, the profound relation which this gift bears to the recipient: not he, but *for him*. Hence, the enrichment in this case is formal, transfigurative in character—it transposes the recipient of the gift to a new plane of existence’.²⁸⁹ The call of the other in such a relationship is answered kenotically but also therefore emergently: the conjoining of the two, three, or more in dialogue creates something new – ‘wherever two or three are gathered in my name’.²⁹⁰

The particular community of people that makes up such a reality cannot be a mere multiplicity; only a community which participates in each other’s humanity is thus under a ‘specific *unity* of this multiplicity’.²⁹¹ What is connected within this community of many, as mentioned above in our discussion of ‘fruitfulness’, ‘is no longer a relation to a *thou* but a relation to a *we*, although it can easily be resolved into a number of relations to *thou*’s’.²⁹² The *communio personarum* is that community which unites the *I–thou* relationship in an abiding ‘mutual affirmation of the transcendent value of the person (a value that may also be called *dignity*) and confirm this by their acts’.²⁹³ Following St Paul, we become incorporated into becoming sons and daughters ‘by adoption’²⁹⁴ through the filial relationship of the Son to the Father who breathes the Spirit upon the Church. But it is precisely ‘the Incarnation which makes the human family a “we” at the deepest level. From the beginning, the Incarnation is a work of reuniting what was divided. Christ bears all men within himself. When the Word became flesh, it did not simply take on a body; as Saint Hilary said, the Incarnation is a *concorporatio*, a

²⁸⁸ E.g., see the essays in Luigino Bruni, ed., *The Economy of Communion: Toward a Multi-Dimensional Economic Culture* (Hyde Park, NY: New City Press, 2002); Thomas J. Norris, *The Trinity—Life of God, Hope for Humanity: Towards a Theology of Communion* (Hyde Park, NY: New City Press, 2009).

²⁸⁹ Bakhtin, ‘Author and Hero in Aesthetic Activity’, in *Art and Answerability*, 90, emphasis in original. Bakhtin is speaking about the ‘hero’ here, but it is clear that these elements transcend themselves into other contexts beyond the novel.

²⁹⁰ Matthew 18:20.

²⁹¹ Wojtyła, ‘The Person: Subject and Community’, in *Person and Community*, 238, emphasis in original.

²⁹² Wojtyła, ‘The Person: Subject and Community’ in *Ibid.*, 242, emphasis in original.

²⁹³ Wojtyła, ‘The Person: Subject and Community’ in *Ibid.*, 246, emphasis in original.

²⁹⁴ Romans 8:15-23.

taking on of all flesh'.²⁹⁵ United in and through the Word, the *communio personarum* partakes of the mutual en-fleshment of Christ by the gift-giving and truth-advocating act of the Spirit who, in an out-pouring upon believers, causes the following to ignite: 'All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need'.²⁹⁶ A new communal dialogue is born at Pentecost. Holding things 'in common', therefore, entails the notion of a 'common good' where 'many *I*'s are related to a single value'.²⁹⁷ Not only does Christ come in the form of a servant, but we see here that the Spirit emboldens believers to engage one another in an act of personal service as well (we recall here the 'dative' grammatical case of giving).

The concept of the common good is itself a reality that functions analogously (the 'analogy of proportionality' applies well here), bringing a different realization of the *we* in the common goods within marriage, a nation, and humankind in general.²⁹⁸ Moreover, in dialogue with the common good, each *we* becomes even 'more fully expressed and more fully actualized'.²⁹⁹ Wojtyła voices a word of warning here: the idea of community should not be used univocally, since it may be applied to different kinds of realities, for even between the *I—thou* relationship and a *we* there remains 'a difference of profiles that seems to extend to the very roots of the two relationships'.³⁰⁰ That is, there can be many *I—thou* relationships within a single *we*: students and teachers within a Church; a priest visiting a sick parishioner within the same congregation; this same parish within the larger body of Christ; etc. Furthermore, even though the profiles of the *I—thou* and the *we* 'are distinct and mutually irreducible to one another, in the experience and development of communal life they must permeate and mutually condition one another'.³⁰¹ Different communities with overlapping and mutually reciprocal relationships may therefore (ideally) arise: dialogically, *viz.*, with the common good in

²⁹⁵ Rourke and Chazarreta Rourke, *A Theory of Personalism*, 31.

²⁹⁶ Acts 2:44-5.

²⁹⁷ Wojtyła, 'The Person: Subject and Community' in *Person and Community*, 247.

²⁹⁸ Wojtyła, 'The Person: Subject and Community' in *Ibid.*, 249. See also Maritain, *The Person and the Common Good*; Rourke and Chazarreta Rourke, *A Theory of Personalism*, 77-86; Schmitz, *At the Center of the Human Drama*, 50-6.

²⁹⁹ Wojtyła, 'The Person: Subject and Community' in *Person and Community*, 250.

³⁰⁰ Wojtyła, 'The Person: Subject and Community' in *Ibid.*, 252.

³⁰¹ Wojtyła, 'The Person: Subject and Community' in *Ibid.*, 254.

sight, the *communio personarum* participates in and through (*dia*) the infinite dialogue of the Word (*Logos*) in the love that the Father has for the Son as communicated and given by the Spirit. Therefore, the *communio personarum* recapitulates the cases of the ‘nominative’ (through the vocative address of naming), accusative (regarding oneself as created and as other), and ‘genitive’ (sharers of being), all of which is upheld by the gift of creation in the ‘dative’. Such a community of human persons does exist here—but not fully quite yet, for even the *I—thou* relationship ‘does not exist in us an already accomplished fact’.³⁰² But, these relationships are a risk worth taking, and it is worth weathering the long journey of a road that, although in its earthly form it remains incredibly broken, it is still a beautiful road, for even now, it is coloured by a world of persons, each made toward the image and likeness of God. As a beautiful reality, it is worth remembering with Plato that ‘all that is beautiful is difficult’.³⁰³ Christ crucified finally consummates this as true.

In this chapter I have traced the form of dialogue from its pre-Christian beginnings in Plato to its reception and transfiguration in the form of a theological call and response, itself understood as an analogical exercise. I have shown that human persons themselves are dialogical as analogically ordered to the ever-greater, tri-personal God. The analogy of *I—thou—we* in part reflects the fruitfulness of the triune life, although it mirrors it only very dimly, refracted by sin and death. And yet, while ‘properly human action in its true nature is action-in-response’,³⁰⁴ our response arrives on the scene late, but it does not come *too* late: Christ’s prior response makes our own response possible to a call that bids us, in a ‘life in death’, toward the true dialogue of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

³⁰² Wojtyła, ‘Participation or Alienation?’ in *Ibid.*, 203.

³⁰³ Plato, *Greater Hippias* 304e.

³⁰⁴ Schmitz, *At the Center of the Human Drama*, 119.

Conclusion: An Entreaty

This thesis has been an exercise in martyrdom. Mere human language has within it a powerlessness which has the capability to bear false witness, to lie:¹ the tongue, a small thing, can turn large ships like a rudder and spark evil fires.² Yet it also has the ability to participate in bearing truthful witness. Specifically, this thesis has wrestled with the issues of telling the truth about persons, both human and divine, via the path of analogy and dialogue. To be a witness to truth (a *martyr*), while it is a gift from God, it is also a task³—a task which I hope I have begun to make gestures toward in this project.

The first part of this thesis considered three ways in which the human person has been denounced falsely under the heading of slander and accusation. Christ stood accused before Pilate (the angry mob is us), yet the real judge is Christ, who is the only one who can testify to himself in the truth because he is the truth, the way, and the life. Secondly, turning to the Dreyfus Affair, I took a closer look at the logic of accusation. There is, first, the kind of slander leveled at Alfred Dreyfus; then, there is the kind of accusation made famous in Emile Zola's 'J'Accuse...!', a kind of accusation which, while it implicates people under its banner, in fact is seated within a deeper witness to the truth. Moses writes about and testifies to the truth: the Pharisees stand accused beneath its testimony. On the heels of the Affair, Charles Péguy reflects fervently about the *mystique* of the Dreyfusards. This serves as the beginnings of an analogical, 'middle-voiced' logic⁴ which suspends the person (not conceptually nor reducing it to a *politique*) in all his or her dignity. Chapter 3, thirdly, proceeds by completing the analysis of accusation by looking closely at the logic of accusation 'in the accusative' in the writings of Levinas. His philosophical work serves both as a warning against forms of *hyper*-alterity which evacuate the person to save the person, as well as an occasion to reconfigure the discourse along more original forms of speech in that of the gift (the dative). The logic of the gift (the 'dative'), therefore,

¹ See Henry, *I Am the Truth*, 6–9.

² James 3:3.

³ Weaver, *The Acting Person and Christian Moral Life*, 131–60.

⁴ Catherine Pickstock, *After Writing: On the Liturgical Cosummation of Philosophy* (Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell, 1998), *passim*, but see esp. 107, 152, 156–7, 244–6.

serves as the impetus for the distance articulated within the tradition of analogous theological speech.

The primarily constructive work of the thesis takes place in second half (Part II), which begins with an articulation of the person as analogical. Chapter 4 begins with a metaphysical reduction to being, the *via resolutionis*, which is discovered to be simultaneously the event of the discovery of the person as the primary analogate of being. This affirmation is made as an act of judgment known as a 'reflexive reversal', one that I attend to throughout the remainder of the thesis: *viz.*, the path of knowledge gives way to the real metaphysical order of things such that the former, while first in our knowledge, becomes affirmed last in the logical order of Creation. In order to 'arrive at the arrival' of the person, therefore, we showed how the person is a legitimate 'perfection term' in the work of Thomas Aquinas, untangling the braid of absolute/relative terms, as well as the metaphysical knot of the formal/material constitution of the person. In order to 'arrive' at the person, I look at the logic of recapitulation in St Irenaeus of Lyons, for it is in this logic where we see the true person revealed and incarnated in the God-Man of Christ. It is in this one person, arriving 'later' than the first Adam, who himself becomes 'first'. Every answer to the human question of, 'Who is the person?' is thus preceded by the answer of the person of Christ who reveals 'man to himself'.⁵

The concern of Chapter 5 is to go deeper into the analogical logic of the person and the question of the *analogia entis* is shown to be co-extensive to the *analogia personae*. I first take a look at the myriad issues surrounding analogy in Thomas Aquinas, paying careful attention to how one 'arrives' at analogy, affirming that the teaching on analogy is *both* epistemological and metaphysical, with an emphasis on the metaphysical reality giving way to thegnoseological. To understand this movement is also to affirm that the 'dative' case referred to above also transposes the 'accusative' into a new key: the key of relationality, or put more precisely, of being first related analogically to God in and through the person of Christ who recapitulates the truth of the human person. This is because analogical speech, as part of the theological

⁵ *Gaudium et Spes* §22 in Flannery OP, *Vatican Council II*, 922.

tradition of naming God, is not merely about speech, but ultimately about somehow analogically speaking of a real God. The logic of analogy itself has been under debate among Thomists, so in this regard I show primarily three things: 1) that the analogy of proportionality does not speak for Thomas; 2) that analogy is based ultimately on the notion of causality, and therefore 3) on participation. The middle section of this chapter counters Christos Yannaras' polemic against what he sees as 'Western' forms of analogy. I show, following various Thomists from the last century (primarily the work of W. Norris Clarke) that, in fact, the Thomist tradition has the same deep participatory logic that is based not upon a rationalist 'essentialism', but upon the tradition which says that God is the subsistent act of being itself (*ipsum esse subsistens*). The emphasis falls here upon *existence*, or the *esse* of God as 'to-be'. The last section of the fifth chapter provides a look at the *Analogia Entis* of Erich Przywara. While I do not contrast the *analogia entis* with the *analogia fidei* in the well-known debate with Barth, instead I show constructively how the *analogia entis*, as co-extensive with an *analogia personae*, is ultimately grounded in an understanding of the primary task of the person to be that of the 'dative' case of *service*.

It is from within the understanding of the adequation toward being as an act of personal service that provides the framework for the conclusion on the final chapter on dialogue. In Chapter 6, I extend the analogy of the person by framing the person as 'dialogical', that is, as existing primarily through a *dialogos* both with the *logos* of Creation, but ultimately and primarily in and through the *Logos* of the second person of the Trinity (this move pushes once again the logic of the 'reflexive reversal'). The first two sections look at the form of dialogue itself, founded first in Plato. The form reflects the shape of reason as a 'conversation' or internal dialogue, but more crucially, it reflects the active, personal form of the person of Socrates. Yet, the Socratic dialogues are known for their perplexing, aporetic endings. To that end, I examine the function of *aporia*, leading, by way of Kierkegaard, Heidegger, and Derrida, to a discussion of death. What matters is not that the *aporia* is a puzzle, an impasse, or the occasion to ruminate about the possible impossibility of one's being-toward-death; rather, the Christian form of dialogue is always involved

in a moment of 'life in death', looking back toward the crucified Christ in order to live forward in a non-identical repetition of service in the life of the Church.

The last three sections of this chapter follow the dialogical contours of 'the call and the response'. I follow both Jean-Louis Chrétien and Johann Georg Hamann in an aesthetic encounter with Creation, moving in the next section toward a *dia-logos* with Creation inspired by the work of Yannaras, pushed toward a 'reflexive reversal' toward the Christic *dia-logos*. The final section attempts to articulate the response of the person, constructively and lived-out concretely. But again, following the logic of recapitulation, the person of Christ responds first for us, despite the fact that for us chronologically he was not 'first'. The remainder of the chapter thus interweaves two important dialogical thinkers through its tapestry: Martin Buber and especially Mikhail Bakhtin. The interaction is not extensive, but what I hope to have shown is that there are some real resources here that remain, despite the appropriate hesitations from Hans Urs von Balthasar which I highlight. For, Balthasar helps us to remember the properly analogical logic of dialogue: it must stay ordered within a causal relationship to a primary analogate; otherwise, to assert that the truth of Christ *itself* is dialogical is to fall into a reductive, univocal trap. Following Balthasar and Karol Wojtyła / Pope John Paul II, finally, I look at the analogy of dialogue considered under the paradigm of 'fruitfulness'. In Wojtyła, this becomes an emphasis on the *communio personarum*, a community of human persons engaged in dialogue both with each other in an *I—thou* profile, but also in the fruitful blossoming of a new, emergent 'we'. This community emerges through the mutual participation in each other's humanity through the service, primarily, of giving oneself over to the other in love.

This thesis began with the claim that, while my project will be devoted to the articulation of the person, it is also deeply committed to in no way *defining* the person. It is my claim that the logics of slanderous accusation and the group of thinkers devoted to a 'radical' heterogeneity of the person have actually gone the farthest to pinpoint the person. The first group reduces the person to 'nothing but' any number of non-human things while the second

group ironically tidies up the person by never having actually to meet one. Perpetual deferral can be useful as an ontic, analogical principle—and this is why Bakhtin remains theologically astute: he respects these logics as *created* logic,⁶ and only speaks about them as a potential first principle by speaking *analogously* about a ‘third’ voice who does not accuse in closing off the narrative, but loves in open-ended responsibility for the other.⁷ However, when never-ending deferral becomes ontologized, despite the claims toward ‘openness’, it becomes precisely its opposite. In sum, the use of analogy begins a constructive counter-project in that it founds the person not in a definition, but in the Creator who the ultimate, ever-greater three-personed God. Moreover, the truth of persons—both divine and human—is enlightened by paying attention to the real dialogical way in which they relate. But again, the analogical interval must be maintained: to reduce human dialogue to the divine dialogical triune life is ultimately a *monological* move. One bears witness to the truth of the person by first bearing witness to Christ, who is himself the concrete *analogia entis*, but who lives perichoretically in the Triune life by regarding his Father in the gift of the person of the Spirit.

To conclude this thesis, one last concrete example is necessary. Christ entreats us to follow him in a particular way in the Gospel of Matthew, recapitulating the themes outlined above. He says that on the day of judgment, we will be judged by how we have treated him: ‘I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me’.⁸ Christ was then asked, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?’⁹ And Christ responds, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me’.¹⁰ Thomas Rourke and Rosita Chazarreta Rourke show that in this passage, we see that ‘Jesus Christ is the ultimate “You” (in the accusative) to whom all

⁶ Likewise, Przywara refers to the metaphysics as ‘creaturely’ and the *analogia entis* as a ‘creaturely principle’. E.g., see Przywara, *Analogia Entis*, 3:45–6, 206–8.

⁷ Cf. the chapter ‘The Last Word?: Dialogue and Recognition’ in Williams, *Dostoevsky*, 111–50.

⁸ Matthew 25:42–3.

⁹ Matthew 25:44.

¹⁰ Matthew 25:45.

love and failure to love is ultimately directed'.¹¹ There is no 'as if' here, and their response deserves to be cited in full:¹²

No, the statement is more radical asserting that the "You" of Christ is present in each and every person and is the "term of every act of love or every refusal to love." The real point of Matthew 25 is to declare that we touch Jesus personally in all of our contact with other human persons. This is the "ontological core" of the command to love our neighbor. As [Jean] Galot summarizes, "*The presence of the 'You' of Christ within each human person, with the right to be loved, is an ontological presence.*" What Matthew 25 also underlines is that, as a relational being, Jesus is never indifferent to any human suffering; it is the "You" of Christ who is crying out for help. This ontological presence of Christ is not simply in his disciples and friends who heed his call. The emphasis is rather on his presence wherever there is human suffering. Moreover, not even evil behavior changes the profound respect owed to every human person as a true presence of Christ in the world. Even those who are in prison for crimes they have committed bear this presence within them, and Jesus bids us to go and comfort them as well (Matthew 25:43).¹³

We end, therefore, with an example of Christ in the 'accusative' of the 'You'. To answer this call of Christ in us is to 'stand accused' with the same Christic 'you' in each one of us, and especially in our neighbor. In so doing, we participate in the same 'I' of Christ so that we may be one in Christ, however analogically, in the splendor of an eschatological *we*. To engage in the works of mercy—both spiritual and especially here with respect to the corporeal—inhabits the lived-out, analogical dialogue of an encounter with Christ where 'standing accused' with Christ is no longer contained within the worldly logics of accusation and slander, but is a faithful opening to bearing witness to the way, truth, and the life of the one God who is in three persons.

¹¹ Rourke and Chazarreta Rourke, *A Theory of Personalism*, 31.

¹² The authors follow Jean Galot, *The Person of Christ*, trans. M. Angeline Bouchard (Rome: Gregorian University Press, 1981), 89.

¹³ Rourke and Chazarreta Rourke, *A Theory of Personalism*, 31; the Galot citation is to Galot, *The Person of Christ*, 90, emphasis in original.

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