Contents

Foreword	xiii
Translator's Introduction	xxxi
Author's Introduction	xxxix
PART I: THE SENSE OF MYSTERY	1
CHAPTER 1: METAPHYSICAL WISDOM AND THE	
Two Supernatural Wisdoms	3
Metaphysical Wisdom—First Philosophy	3
The Degrees of Knowledge	5
The Image and the Idea	8
True Science	9
The Characteristics of Wisdom and Their Raison d'être	11
What Does Wisdom Receive from the Other Sciences,	
as well as from Experience?	15
The Real Definition of Wisdom	20
The Two Supernatural Wisdoms	27
Theology: Its Object, Its Light, and its Rooting in Infused Faith	27
The Comfort Offered to Metaphysics by Divine Revelation	32
The Spirit's Gift of Wisdom and	
Quasi-experiential Knowledge of God	34
The Role of Rectified Will in Two Other Species of Certitude	39
The Certitude of Prudence	40
The Certitude of Hope	44
Chapter 2: The Verb "To Be"—Its Sense and Its Scope	47
Metaphysical Reflection upon Forms of Language	49
The Diverse Senses of the Verb "To Be" in Relation to the	
Nature or to the Existence of Things	55
The Diverse Meanings of the Verb "To Be" and	
the Diverse Categories of the Real	62
What Identity is Expressed by the Verb "To Be"	67
Being in Act and Being in Potency	70

Chapter 3: The Philosophical Spirit and	
THE SENSE OF MYSTERY	73
The Order of Sense Knowledge Is Inverse to	
the Order of Intellectual Knowledge	75
The Philosophical Spirit and Common Knowledge	77
The Mystery of Sensation	80
The Mystery of Causality	85
St. Thomas's Sense of Mystery	92
Above Eclecticism	98
The Spirit of Christian Philosophy	99
Chapter 4: The Intellectual Chiaroscuro	103
The Two Obscurities and the Two Clarities	104
Two Forms of the Probable	108
The Art of Contrasts	109
The Sensible Chiaroscuro	110
The Suprasensible Chiaroscuro in the Various	
Orders of Intellectual Knowledge	112
PART II: THE MYSTERY OF THE RELATIONSHIP	
BETWEEN NATURE AND GRACE	121
Chapter 1: The Existence of the Supernatural	
Order: The Intimate Life of God	123
A Capital Text of St. Thomas	123
Response to Difficulties	135
Chapter 2: Can the Possibility of the	
BEATIFIC VISION BE DEMONSTRATED?	141
The Nature of the Problem	143
The Common Solution of Thomists	150
The Value of the Thomists' Common Solution	157
Chapter 3: The Eminence of the Deity,	
Its Attributes, and the Divine Persons	171
The Deity and the Proper Object of Theology	171
The Deity and the Divine Attributes	176

CHAPTER 4: MIRACLES AND GRACE— TWO VERY DIFFERENT FORMS OF THE SUPERNATURAL Whence Comes the Confusion in Many Controversies Relative to the Supernatural? The Division of the Supernatural CHAPTER 5: THE SUPERNATURALITY OF FAITH The Nominalist Theory of the Supernatural In What Sense is Infused Faith Essentially Supernatural? Is It Due to its Formal Object? Solution of Difficulties CHAPTER 6: THE DIVINE PREDILECTION AND THE POSSIBLE SALVATION OF ALL God Never Commands the Impossible, but He Makes It Really Possible for Every Adult to Accomplish His Duty Nobody Would Be Better than Another if He Were Not Loved More by God The Mystery of the Intimate Reconciliation of Justice, Mercy, and Sovereign Freedom The Divine Permission of Sin Differs from the Subtraction of Grace Not to Give wersus to Refuse The Measure and Boldness of St. Thomas in These Questions The Riddle of the Sphinx The Response of the Lord CHAPTER 7: THE CREATED PURE SPIRIT, AND ITS LIMITS The Nature of the Created Pure Spirit The Object of the Natural Knowledge of a Pure Spirit The Limits of the Natural Knowledge of the Pure Spirit	The Deity and the Divine Persons	183
Two Very Different Forms of the Supernatural Whence Comes the Confusion in Many Controversies Relative to the Supernatural? The Division of the Supernatural 2 Chapter 5: The Supernatural In What Sense is Infused Faith Essentially Supernatural? Is It Due to its Formal Object? Solution of Difficulties 2 Chapter 6: The Divine Predilection and The Possible Salvation of All God Never Commands the Impossible, but He Makes It Really Possible for Every Adult to Accomplish His Duty Nobody Would Be Better than Another if He Were Not Loved More by God The Mystery of the Intimate Reconciliation of Justice, Mercy, and Sovereign Freedom The Divine Permission of Sin Differs from the Subtraction of Grace Not to Give wersus to Refuse The Measure and Boldness of St. Thomas in These Questions The Riddle of the Sphinx The Response of the Lord Chapter 7: The Created Pure Spirit The Nature of the Created Pure Spirit The Object of the Natural Knowledge of a Pure Spirit The Limits of the Natural Knowledge of the Pure Spirit	The Deity and the Essence of Grace	188
Relative to the Supernatural? The Division of the Supernatural CHAPTER 5: THE SUPERNATURALITY OF FAITH The Nominalist Theory of the Supernatural In What Sense is Infused Faith Essentially Supernatural? Is It Due to its Formal Object? Solution of Difficulties CHAPTER 6: THE DIVINE PREDILECTION AND THE POSSIBLE SALVATION OF ALL God Never Commands the Impossible, but He Makes It Really Possible for Every Adult to Accomplish His Duty Nobody Would Be Better than Another if He Were Not Loved More by God The Mystery of the Intimate Reconciliation of Justice, Mercy, and Sovereign Freedom The Divine Permission of Sin Differs from the Subtraction of Grace Not to Give wersus to Refuse The Measure and Boldness of St. Thomas in These Questions The Riddle of the Sphinx The Response of the Lord CHAPTER 7: THE CREATED PURE SPIRIT, AND ITS LIMITS The Nature of the Created Pure Spirit The Object of the Natural Knowledge of a Pure Spirit The Limits of the Natural Knowledge of the Pure Spirit		199
CHAPTER 5: THE SUPERNATURALITY OF FAITH The Nominalist Theory of the Supernatural In What Sense is Infused Faith Essentially Supernatural? Is It Due to its Formal Object? Solution of Difficulties CHAPTER 6: THE DIVINE PREDILECTION AND THE POSSIBLE SALVATION OF ALL God Never Commands the Impossible, but He Makes It Really Possible for Every Adult to Accomplish His Duty Nobody Would Be Better than Another if He Were Not Loved More by God The Mystery of the Intimate Reconciliation of Justice, Mercy, and Sovereign Freedom The Divine Permission of Sin Differs from the Subtraction of Grace Not to Give wersus to Refuse The Measure and Boldness of St. Thomas in These Questions The Riddle of the Sphinx The Response of the Lord CHAPTER 7: THE CREATED PURE SPIRIT, AND ITS LIMITS The Nature of the Created Pure Spirit The Object of the Natural Knowledge of a Pure Spirit The Limits of the Natural Knowledge of the Pure Spirit	•	199
The Nominalist Theory of the Supernatural In What Sense is Infused Faith Essentially Supernatural? Is It Due to its Formal Object? Solution of Difficulties CHAPTER 6: THE DIVINE PREDILECTION AND THE POSSIBLE SALVATION OF ALL God Never Commands the Impossible, but He Makes It Really Possible for Every Adult to Accomplish His Duty Nobody Would Be Better than Another if He Were Not Loved More by God The Mystery of the Intimate Reconciliation of Justice, Mercy, and Sovereign Freedom The Divine Permission of Sin Differs from the Subtraction of Grace Not to Give wersus to Refuse The Measure and Boldness of St. Thomas in These Questions The Riddle of the Sphinx The Response of the Lord CHAPTER 7: THE CREATED PURE SPIRIT, AND ITS LIMITS The Nature of the Created Pure Spirit The Object of the Natural Knowledge of a Pure Spirit The Limits of the Natural Knowledge of the Pure Spirit	The Division of the Supernatural	206
In What Sense is Infused Faith Essentially Supernatural? Is It Due to its Formal Object? Solution of Difficulties CHAPTER 6: THE DIVINE PREDILECTION AND THE POSSIBLE SALVATION OF ALL God Never Commands the Impossible, but He Makes It Really Possible for Every Adult to Accomplish His Duty Nobody Would Be Better than Another if He Were Not Loved More by God The Mystery of the Intimate Reconciliation of Justice, Mercy, and Sovereign Freedom The Divine Permission of Sin Differs from the Subtraction of Grace Not to Give wersus to Refuse The Measure and Boldness of St. Thomas in These Questions The Riddle of the Sphinx The Response of the Lord CHAPTER 7: THE CREATED PURE SPIRIT, AND ITS LIMITS The Nature of the Created Pure Spirit The Object of the Natural Knowledge of a Pure Spirit The Limits of the Natural Knowledge of the Pure Spirit	Chapter 5: The Supernaturality of Faith	217
Is It Due to its Formal Object? Solution of Difficulties CHAPTER 6: THE DIVINE PREDILECTION AND THE POSSIBLE SALVATION OF ALL God Never Commands the Impossible, but He Makes It Really Possible for Every Adult to Accomplish His Duty Nobody Would Be Better than Another if He Were Not Loved More by God The Mystery of the Intimate Reconciliation of Justice, Mercy, and Sovereign Freedom The Divine Permission of Sin Differs from the Subtraction of Grace Not to Give wersus to Refuse The Measure and Boldness of St. Thomas in These Questions The Riddle of the Sphinx The Response of the Lord CHAPTER 7: THE CREATED PURE SPIRIT, AND ITS LIMITS The Nature of the Created Pure Spirit The Object of the Natural Knowledge of a Pure Spirit The Limits of the Natural Knowledge of the Pure Spirit	The Nominalist Theory of the Supernatural	219
Solution of Difficulties CHAPTER 6: THE DIVINE PREDILECTION AND THE POSSIBLE SALVATION OF ALL God Never Commands the Impossible, but He Makes It Really Possible for Every Adult to Accomplish His Duty Nobody Would Be Better than Another if He Were Not Loved More by God The Mystery of the Intimate Reconciliation of Justice, Mercy, and Sovereign Freedom The Divine Permission of Sin Differs from the Subtraction of Grace Not to Give wersus to Refuse The Measure and Boldness of St. Thomas in These Questions The Riddle of the Sphinx The Response of the Lord CHAPTER 7: THE CREATED PURE SPIRIT, AND ITS LIMITS The Nature of the Created Pure Spirit The Object of the Natural Knowledge of a Pure Spirit The Limits of the Natural Knowledge of the Pure Spirit	, 1	222
THE POSSIBLE SALVATION OF ALL God Never Commands the Impossible, but He Makes It Really Possible for Every Adult to Accomplish His Duty Nobody Would Be Better than Another if He Were Not Loved More by God The Mystery of the Intimate Reconciliation of Justice, Mercy, and Sovereign Freedom The Divine Permission of Sin Differs from the Subtraction of Grace Not to Give wersus to Refuse The Measure and Boldness of St. Thomas in These Questions The Riddle of the Sphinx The Response of the Lord CHAPTER 7: THE CREATED PURE SPIRIT, AND ITS LIMITS The Nature of the Created Pure Spirit The Object of the Natural Knowledge of a Pure Spirit The Limits of the Natural Knowledge of the Pure Spirit	,	238
It Really Possible for Every Adult to Accomplish His Duty Nobody Would Be Better than Another if He Were Not Loved More by God The Mystery of the Intimate Reconciliation of Justice, Mercy, and Sovereign Freedom The Divine Permission of Sin Differs from the Subtraction of Grace Not to Give wersus to Refuse The Measure and Boldness of St. Thomas in These Questions The Riddle of the Sphinx The Response of the Lord CHAPTER 7: THE CREATED PURE SPIRIT, AND ITS LIMITS The Nature of the Created Pure Spirit The Object of the Natural Knowledge of a Pure Spirit The Limits of the Natural Knowledge of the Pure Spirit		249
Not Loved More by God The Mystery of the Intimate Reconciliation of Justice, Mercy, and Sovereign Freedom The Divine Permission of Sin Differs from the Subtraction of Grace Not to Give wersus to Refuse The Measure and Boldness of St. Thomas in These Questions The Riddle of the Sphinx The Response of the Lord CHAPTER 7: THE CREATED PURE SPIRIT, AND ITS LIMITS The Nature of the Created Pure Spirit The Object of the Natural Knowledge of a Pure Spirit The Limits of the Natural Knowledge of the Pure Spirit	A	250
Justice, Mercy, and Sovereign Freedom The Divine Permission of Sin Differs from the Subtraction of Grace Not to Give wersus to Refuse The Measure and Boldness of St. Thomas in These Questions The Riddle of the Sphinx The Response of the Lord CHAPTER 7: THE CREATED PURE SPIRIT, AND ITS LIMITS The Nature of the Created Pure Spirit The Object of the Natural Knowledge of a Pure Spirit The Limits of the Natural Knowledge of the Pure Spirit 2	•	255
Subtraction of Grace Not to Give wersus to Refuse The Measure and Boldness of St. Thomas in These Questions The Riddle of the Sphinx The Response of the Lord CHAPTER 7: THE CREATED PURE SPIRIT, AND ITS LIMITS The Nature of the Created Pure Spirit The Object of the Natural Knowledge of a Pure Spirit The Limits of the Natural Knowledge of the Pure Spirit 2	•	263
The Measure and Boldness of St. Thomas in These Questions The Riddle of the Sphinx The Response of the Lord CHAPTER 7: THE CREATED PURE SPIRIT, AND ITS LIMITS The Nature of the Created Pure Spirit The Object of the Natural Knowledge of a Pure Spirit The Limits of the Natural Knowledge of the Pure Spirit 2		266
The Riddle of the Sphinx The Response of the Lord CHAPTER 7: THE CREATED PURE SPIRIT, AND ITS LIMITS The Nature of the Created Pure Spirit The Object of the Natural Knowledge of a Pure Spirit The Limits of the Natural Knowledge of the Pure Spirit 2	Not to Give wersus to Refuse	267
The Response of the Lord CHAPTER 7: THE CREATED PURE SPIRIT, AND ITS LIMITS The Nature of the Created Pure Spirit The Object of the Natural Knowledge of a Pure Spirit The Limits of the Natural Knowledge of the Pure Spirit 2	The Measure and Boldness of St. Thomas in These Questions	270
The Response of the Lord CHAPTER 7: THE CREATED PURE SPIRIT, AND ITS LIMITS The Nature of the Created Pure Spirit The Object of the Natural Knowledge of a Pure Spirit The Limits of the Natural Knowledge of the Pure Spirit 2	The Riddle of the Sphinx	271
The Nature of the Created Pure Spirit 2 The Object of the Natural Knowledge of a Pure Spirit 2 The Limits of the Natural Knowledge of the Pure Spirit 2	•	274
The Object of the Natural Knowledge of a Pure Spirit 2 The Limits of the Natural Knowledge of the Pure Spirit 2	Chapter 7: The Created Pure Spirit, and Its Limits	277
The Limits of the Natural Knowledge of the Pure Spirit 2	The Nature of the Created Pure Spirit	279
	The Object of the Natural Knowledge of a Pure Spirit	280
C	The Limits of the Natural Knowledge of the Pure Spirit	283
CHAPTER 8: THE SPIRITUAL CHIAROSCURO	Chapter 8: The Spiritual Chiaroscuro	289
The Chiaroscuro of the Night of the Senses	The Chiaroscuro of the Night of the Senses	290
The Chiaroscuro of the Night of the Spirit 2	The Chiaroscuro of the Night of the Spirit	294