WORKS OF AUGUSTINE OF HIPPO

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…there were false prophets among the people
as also false teachers will be among you,
who will secretly bring in destructive heresies…
And many will follow their destructive ways,
by whom the way of truth will be blasphemed…
{2 Peter 2:1, 2}

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Σημειωσεις – Notes

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Sign ▣ denotes my opinions, inferences, and assumptions

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Σ1 The survived manuscripts of Manichaean origin and the works of those who criticized and attempted to disprove the Manichean articles of faith [w1; w2; w3; w4; w5; w6; and the others] make possible reconstruction of the essence of Manichaean doctrine.

Mani or Manichæus (A.D. third century, Persia) asserted that he is an "apostle of Jesus Christ, by the providence of God the Father," and claimed that he was so taken by the Holy Spirit that he himself became "the Paraclite" promised by Jesus Christ to His followers. Mani also claimed to be the last prophet in the line, into which he included Adam, Zoroaster, Buddha, and Jesus.

So, Mani chose own twelve "apostles," promulgated own "ten commandments" (which forbade idolatry, mendacity, avarice, murder, fornication, theft, deceit, magic, hypocrisy, and religious indifference), and wrote for his followers Fundamental Epistle – substitute for the Bible [existence of Mani's "apostles" also confirmed in: *Decrees of the Ecumenical Councils* 120].

The followers had to pray four times a day to different divinities "of the realm of light," starting with "the father of majesty/greatness," the first man – Ohrmizd, similar to Egyptian Osiris and Greek Dionysus [w4], "the Paraclite" – that is to Mani himself, the five elements/aeons/sons of "the father of majesty/greatness" (one of which – the light/nous: ***Νοος*** as Greek Intelligence/Reason – Mani named "Jesus Christ"). Pantheon of Mani's deities included also deities of seven planets (Sun, Mars, Jupiter, Moon, etc.) and the others.

Mani established the ritual, which imitated the ancient rites of the Zoroastrians and was named "the communion," yet, it was the communion with one element – bread – only.

Mani aspired to create the universal religion, which would accommodate religious needs of the believers of the entire world; thus, Manichaeism incorporates parts of many theological doctrines and references to deities of many religions, including references to Lord Jesus Christ as to a personification of the Light, one of the aeons – sons of the good god. Mani also referred to Lord Jesus Christ and covered his fantasies with the Name of Christ, similar to the warning left by the Apostles {*Acts 20:29; 2 Peter 2:13, 17–19; 1 Corinthians 12:3; 1 Timothy 4:1–7*}.

The core of Manichaeism consists of

a/ the Persian doctrine of dualism (the good and the evil are two primeval independent forces)

b/ Gnosticism (for instance, the concept of "evil mater" and similar deities: Mani's "father of majesty/greatness" with five elements/light limbs/aeons/sons are similar to those in Gnosticism – the parent of the eternity with five aeons/sons [w4])

c/ heathenism (the multi–deity arrangement).

Comparison of Gnosticism and Manichaeism illustrates the work of Mani's mind, how it adjusted–incorporated the concepts borrowed from other theological–philosophical doctrines.

Gnosticism is the specific philosophical–theological systems of thought focused on knowledge as the life of the mind and composed of the concepts adopted from heathen philosophy and myths, Hellenic Judaism produced by Philo of Alexandria from the books of Moses and heathen Greek philosophy, and the ancient secret doctrines of magi of Persia and Babylon.

All theological, philosophical, and political doctrines, which had their root in Gnosticism, may be identified by one distinctive mark: the prohibition to make knowledge available for all population.

In particular, the Gnostics divided mankind into three classes:

– a few of the illuminated – the elite which has access to the secret sacred knowledge

– the inferior souls, who are satisfied with the knowledge they already have

– all the others who are not able to cognize the secret knowledge, therefore are doomed to remain the subject of the matter – or the mortal flesh, for instance, the subjects of the rulers and idols, which they worship as deities.

Mani simplified the Gnostic classification; his sect consists of

1/ the Initiated–Enlightened–Illuminated–Perfected elite in a possession of the special secret–mystical–divine–forbidden knowledge of God

2/ all the others deprived of this knowledge (the Hearers–Believers–Brothers or the simple–small–ordinary souls, the laity, etc.), therefore, unworthy to be something more than ordinary laborers – in fact, slaves – destined to sustain the privileged existence of the Perfected–Illuminated–Initiated–etc. elite. Only the small part of the Hearers–Believers–Brothers might ascend to the rank of the Perfected.

The roots of Gnostic and Manichaean classification of men stem from the Dionysian cult of death with its division of the followers on the elite and the ordinary members who were destined to serve as the human weapon ***[[***concerning Dionysian cult, see **Divination** in ***Ancient Civilizations: Legacy Overview]]***.

Hence, Mani arranged his sect into a simplified democracy according to the Aristotle's universal ***master*** ⇄ ***slave*** pattern, or main organizational principle of Aristotle's Polis: the mob (the Hearers–Believers) exists to support life of the elite (the Perfected), yet the mob also serves as the pool, from which the members of the elite are chosen.

In brief, the following assertions, which Mani attempted to confirm with misinterpretation of the passages from the Holy Scriptures and covered with the terminology of the Holy Scriptures, convey the essence of the Manichaeism, which was practiced in Byzantine Empire, North Africa, Asia, and Europe [in: w1; w2; w3; w4; w5; Baybrook; Pilkington; *The Sunset Knowledge*; Vacandard; and the others].

1/ The dogmatic foundation of Manichaeism is dualism: existence of two principles – the good that created the spiritual realm, and the bad/the evil that created the material realm with all wickedness, unbelief, and all bad things accommodated and contained within the material world.

As the creation of the evil, the human flesh is a manifestation of the evil, which had to be suppressed; only the Perfected can achieve personal salvation by own efforts, through repentance, mystical knowledge, and severe suppression of the human nature.

2/ The evil has the power at least equal to the power of the good god, because it moves the good god against his creations and causes the good god to desire and to wish that which is not desirable for him; the good god is not mighty in evil. As soon as the power of the evil is not from the good and exceeds the good, nothing can be snatched from the power of darkness, and there is no way and no means by which the one can be converted from the power of the evil god (Satan in Mani's terminology) to the power of the good god.

▣ Thus, Mani asserts that the evil is the omnipotent force that has prevalence even over the good god; in other words, he establishes the arch–evil as the omnipotent god that is more powerful that the good god, transfers the entire world of the material things into authority of the arch–evil, and introduces multi–deity heathen arrangement.

3/ The free will does not exist: a human being does not have power over himself; he is not capable to choose/do/think anything that was not allotted to him by the power, to which he is submitted (either the good or the evil). Therefore, some people have potency for salvation, and some people have no potency for salvation: they cannot be saved; otherwise, demons could become angels, angels could become demons, and so on. All is pre–determined: the pre–existence of the necessity and the impossibility to override the necessity, the necessity of being and the impossibility of not–being, and so on. God that is the first cause that is the intelligence to which, as Aristotle says, all things are in the present, knows all whatever is to happen in the future, and creates imperfect things, because of necessity for angels to become demons and impossibility for them do not become demons.

▣ The theoretical foundation is the ancient Greek concept of pre–determination, which submitted gods as well as men to the omnipotent power of the fate and postulated that nothing can ever be changed or accomplished or undone if it is not determined by the fate. The practical inference is doctrine of the unreserved obedience, which, by the very nature, the subordinate ones owe to those who are their natural masters, owners, teachers, who all act because their god pre–determined them to act and therefore, the masters/owners/etc. must be obeyed as gods are to be obeyed ***[[***see Aquinas' doctrine of the unreserved obedience – in ***Doctrine of Thomas Aquinas*** – Folder ***Heathen Philosophy]]***.

4/ Salvation for the vast majority of the population, including majority of the Mani's followers, is impossible: only insignificant part of mankind – the Manichaean elite, "the Perfected" – will achieve the salvation, which Mani envisioned as the union with the pure light. Other members of the sect ("the Hearers" or "the Believers" who were allowed to marry, to work, and even to wage wars) have to go through the cycles of reincarnation. Their souls transmigrate into the plants (from which they might be freed by the Perfected) or somewhere else or into the Perfected. The only way to reach "the light" and to be freed from the necessity to go through the cycles of reincarnation is becoming the Perfected [in: Baybrook 310–311; Pilkington 66; Vacandard 59, 73].

5/ God did not wish to create the perfect things, but such that they would be able to do the good and the evil. Therefore, as soon as god knows the future, the destiny of everyone and everything is pre–determined.

▣ This assertion transforms the world into the place of stagnation and hopelessness, the prison, in which nothing is determined by human will and nothing can be achieved by man.

6/ Everything that was created was created from the pre–existing matter.

▣ This assertion links Mani's doctrine with the ancient materialism, which admitted no gods but one – pre–existing eternal matter.

7/ God cannot make another god like unto himself; the evil power and the good power are in constant struggle: the good god attempts to assail the power of the evil daily.

▣ Although Mani's good god is in a constant state of war with the evil one ***[[***this concept – the continuous struggle of Ormazd (the good) with the Ahriman (the evil) – was borrowed from Zoroastrianism; Zoroastrians believe that eventually, the good will prevail over the evil***]]***, Mani attributed to the evil god the omnipotent force; it means that Mani's good one is powerless: he is incapable to defeat the evil, which therefore, should be irresistible and eternal.

8/ Another – evil – god and creator causes adultery, fornication, murders, plundering, thievery, falsehood, and other evils; it cursed Lord Jesus Christ. This assertion in Manichaean writings is supplied with explanation that as soon as God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit are "one and the same," the curse confirms existence of another eternal god of all evils, and this god was seen in the visible world, face to face. The evidence of its existence can be derived from the Holy Scriptures; for instance, the vision of Habakkuk the prophet refers to "the eternity of devil," describes it as "god," and states that "death shall go before its face" [w2].

▣ **1/** God the Father and Word–God, the Son of God, are One as Lord Jesus Christ, the Word–God, said {*John 10:30*}.

However, to assert that "God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit are the same" means to establish existence of three equal similar gods. This Mani's assertion explains why Augustine invented his "Filioque": the Augustine's declaration that "the Holy Spirit proceeds from the Son as He proceeds from the Father" is rooted in Manichean multi–deity arrangement and inability to comprehend the Christian teachings.

2/ In fact, the referred prophet {*Habakkuk 3:3–6*} describes his vision of God, the Holy One, Whose excellence covers the heavens, and the earth is full of His praise. His brilliancy is as the light. In His hands is the horn {***κερατα*** – horn as trumpet or as vessel for water; the Horn of salvation – ***κερας σωτηριας*** – in reference to Lord Jesus Christ – in: *Luke 1:69*}, and He has placed/committed to love His mighty strength (***εθετο αγαπησιν κραταιαν ισχυος αυτου***, where ***εθετο*** is a derivative of ***τιθημι*** – put, place, offer, commit; the primary word is either ancient ***θεω*** – to run or ***θεο*** – complete, as the root of words defining ***Θεος*** – God); before His face, the Word – ***Λογος*** – shall go.

There is no one mentioning of "devil" and "death."

This example ***[[***with reference to Habakkuk the prophet***]]*** illustrates typical distortion of the texts of the Holy Scriptures by Manicheans and reveals the pattern, which describes propagations of heresies:

1/ the one who seeks to enslave the others with heresy/false knowledge, expresses own opinion/assertions stated as the interpretation (frivolous and intended to confirm own assertions, not to convey the true meaning)

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2/ although frivolous and false, nevertheless, for verisimilitude, the assertion with misinterpretation of the Holy Scriptures is supplemented with the reference to the text of the Holy Scriptures

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3/ if the interlocutor does not know the Scriptures, he might accept the lies as truth, and such deceit becomes the core of corruption, which is exactly what the hunter for the souls needs for the beginning

↓

4/ with each additional untruth, the defrauded mind moves itself further and further from truth, until it completely loses an ability to differentiate between false and true knowledge, and between good and evil

Definitely, ignorance of the targeted ones increases chances of success for those who seek to enslave the targets with heresy/false knowledge and to trap them into the inferno of the false religion.

One interesting historic event gives the ample food for thoughts: in 1229, the Inquisition in Toulouse announced prohibition of reading of the Bible by the papal laity, making therefore, the Bible the forbidden book for the ordinary papal subjects.

Consequently, during many centuries, the knowledge of the words of God was forbidden for the vast majority of the Catholics who had to be fed with the images produced by the papal theologians – "guardians" of their souls, and had to accept as "the divine truth" any assertion, which the papal hierarchy considered beneficial for own purposes. In addition, translations of the Bible onto the European and other languages were also forbidden. Both prohibitions, which deprived the papal subjects of knowledge of the words of God, were supported with the drastic measures; for example, in 1536, William Tyndale was burned at the stake for translation of the Bible into English (published in 1526) [in: Trager 174, 179, Baybrook 603; The Bible. "Preface." iii].

9/ There are many gods, lords, and princes of the world in enmity to the good god and to Jesus Christ. First men – Adam and Eve – are the offspring of male and female demons.

▣ This assertion indicates the multi–deity arrangements of the heathen religion, similar to the ancient Greek cults, which populated the entire universe and all its levels with multitudes of gods.

The inferences *[[1* through *7]]* from the referred above postulates of the Mani's doctrine

1. Manichaeism denigrates the power of God the Creator and asserts the arch–evil as the omnipotent deity – that is the worst heresy of all heresies ever devised by human corrupted imagination, which is continually intently bent to the evil {*Genesis 8:21*}.

2. Manichaeism denigrates the human mind; for Mani, man is a powerless toy of the arch–evil, which performs the works and commits crimes that were appointed for him by god (either the good or the evil one) that created him and that, therefore, is responsible for all crimes and all the evils, which man inflicts onto all other beings.

3. Manichaeism is the most antisocial and antihuman doctrine: as soon as it asserted that the matter created by the evil is evil, the very life of a human body is evil. Thus, all that is related to the matter is evil; procreation is sin, because by begetting children, man serves the evil and increases its possession; any social activity is sin, because the one has to deal with the matters created by the evil and serving the evil. Therefore, the only way that left for the one who wants to serve the good (to become the Perfected one), is death. The one achieves salvation by coming through the ritual of slow suicide – "endura," by depriving himself from all that sustains life of a body.

Hence, Mani forbade marriage for the Perfected: men and women had to live in separate communities, and to conceive a child for the Perfected was "the height of immorality." Maternity was a calamity and sin; deliverance of a child was the abhorrent deed. The very life became a sin because it sustains existence of the matter, which imprisons the light, into which the souls of the Perfected should come. Consequently, voluntary or suggested by the superior suicide ("*endura*") through self–imposed starvation and other austerities became the method of perfection and salvation.

Similar assertions sustain the asceticism of the heathen diviners and followers of the cults, which as St. Paul the Apostle warned {*1 Timothy 4:1–5*}, forbade marriage and introduced senseless austerities according to the "teaching of demons," in hypocrisy of liars.

4. In general, the Mani's doctrine does not offer something new under the sun: his doctrine includes concepts borrowed from religious doctrines of Persia, Zoroastrianism, India, Buddhism (transmigration of souls; vegetarianism), Taoism, the remnants of the Egyptian and Greek myths, including elements of the Orphism, etc. The core of Manichaeism consists of

a/ the Persian doctrine of dualism (the good and the evil are two primeval independent forces)

b/ Gnosticism (the concept of "evil mater," similar deities: Mani's "father of majesty/greatness" with five elements/light limbs/aeons/sons are similar to those in Gnosticism: the parent of the eternity with five aeons/sons [w4])

c/ heathenism (the multi–deity arrangement).

However, the open recognition of the omnipotence of the arch–evil covered with the Christian terminology ***[[***Christianity was "incorporated" into the Mani's doctrine, because it was spreading all over the Middle East, Asia, and North Africa; through use of Christian terms – the Father, the Son, the Paraclite – Mani intended to deceive and to attract Christians***]]*** made Manichaean doctrine the worst heresy, because it disseminates blasphemies against God the Creator: for the Christians, the articles of the Manichean faith are the sacrilege. Those who still have not learnt the words of God well might be deceived with the Christian terminology and therefore, could be forced to swallow the lethal pill: poison of the arch–evil covered with the Name of Lord Jesus Christ and references to the Holy Spirit.

5. Mani attempted to establish new universal religion for the entire world; for achievement of his purpose, he had to make his assertions acceptable for the followers of all other religions. Consequently, Mani's devised his doctrine as a mixture of deities, concepts, dogmas, myths, and terminology borrowed from many religions of Asia, Middle East, Greece, and Egypt, so the people of these lands could find their deities and the concepts on which their religion is based, and therefore, to assume that Manichaeism is the illumination for those who desires to advance at their ways to complete knowledge and make the first step to salvation.

Definitely, the "enlightened" members of the Mani's hierarchy (bishops, apostles) and Perfected with the duties to propagate their beliefs had to develop particular flexibility of thinking, advanced skills and techniques of psychological persuasion necessary for convincing likening the borrowed doctrines and articles of faith of other religions to their counterparts in Manichean system. With such arsenal they have to convert people into Manichaeism, yet to make them think that, by their conversion into Manichaeism, they do not commit apostasy, yet pursue the path of advancement and enlightenment.

In other words, the Manichaean propagandists, following to Aristotle's irrational concept, had to prove truth by falsehood [Aristotle *Eudemian Ethics* I.vi.6], or to derive truth from lies. They had to convince the people of different beliefs in similarity of their religions with Manichaeism, which they presented as the advanced knowledge of the world elite – the illumination that elevates the carriers of such knowledge over the crowds.

The similar pattern defines ecumenism – the contemporary papal Crusade for unification of Christianity with Catholicism ***[[***see ***Ecumenism]]***.

6. Manichaeism is the ultimate embodiment of slavery – submission of man to the "omnipotent" power of the evil, which is based on three pillars: no free will, all–encompassing pre–determination, no possibility to avoid the power of the evil and to be saved for those who are of the evil.

7. In summary, Manichaeism is the more advanced version of Orphic doctrine, which contaminated the Western theology through works of Plato, Aristotle, and Proclus. In the works of Plato, Aristotle, and Proclus, there are not many references to the essence of the doctrine – the worship to the arch–evil; the essence is covered with philosophical terms and it is hidden behind concepts accessible for the elite trained in philosophy and philosophizing techniques: the philosophers work at the level of the general framework. Mani's mythical cover made his doctrine understandable for the simple people whose mind from their childhood was fed with myths, fairy tales, and dreams: Mani's doctrine was designed to work at the level of general, mostly ignorant, population, so the entire mankind would be cast into the tenets of evil–worship.

In heathen theological terms, Mani postulates his doctrine plainly, without a chance of misinterpretation,

elevating the arch–evil at the rank of the most powerful force of the world
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denigrating the power of the good
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depriving man of the free will
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transforming man into the unreserved slave of the arch–evil

In the same time, the Mani's doctrine is irrational for the unbiased mind: while it is the ultimate concept of slavery and recognition of the arch–evil as the omnipotent force, still, Mani promises his followers illumination and even salvation. However, his "illumination" is the darkness of slavery of human mind deceived by heresy and lies, and death. The essence of Mani's promises covered with the references to the light, into which his followers are supposed to enter after conversion into his cult and embodying his "faith" into their life, is death. With recognition of the arch–evil as the omnipotent "evil god" and austerities completed with slow suicide from hunger and austerities, Mani's followers face death: death of the mind, which exterminates within itself the image of God the Creator ***[[***suicide is the ultimate form of rejection of God, because by killing himself, man lifts his hand against his Creator Whose image is his essence***]]***, and death of a body.

In general, history of Mani and his doctrine provides convincing illustration of the warning left by St. Peter the Apostle {*2 Peter 2:17–19*} concerning those who, being slaves of death, promise freedom (***αυτοι δουλοι υπαρχοντες της φθορας*** – themselves being slaves of death; where ***φθορας*** is derivative of ***φθορα/φθορη*** – death, destruction, annihilation, ruin, loss; deadly plague; corruption; concerning the pattern of ***διαφθορον***, which describes the totality of physical, moral, and religious ruin, see ***Apostasy***
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Manichaeism brought forth confusion and attracted attention of the religious and political leaders, because

1/ the Manicheans imitated the Christian terminology, while disseminated beliefs into the omnipotence of the arch–evil and non–human antisocial manner of life

2/ the apparently "righteous" life of the Perfected of Manicheans (no animal food, strict rituals of purification, fasting, mortification of flesh through masochist practices, avoidance of sexual contacts, no social or political activity, rejection of the society and all obligations, duties, and customs) attracted many people; for instance, in Southern France, in eleventh–twelfth century, the majority of newcomers were those who encountered corruption, injustice, and hypocrisy of the papal subjects

3/ danger for mental, social, and political health of the societies, into which Manicheans brought their concepts of the omnipotence of the arch–evil and antihuman and antisocial organization of their sect based on the most inhumane and antisocial doctrine from all heresies ever invented by the human mind

4/ fast movement of the sect into the provinces of the Roman Empire, Egypt, Northern Africa; in the fourth century, Manichaeism already reached Rome, southern France, Spain, and was spread in the Central Asia.

Consequently, the history of Manicheans became the history of persecution and extermination, starting with horrifying execution of the founder of the sect (according to the order of Bahram I, Mani was crucified in 276 or 277, in Babylon (?)).

The Roman Empire, and then, the Byzantine Empire exterminated the Mani's heresy without any mercy. For instance, in 297, the Manicheans of Egypt had been burned alive for the attempt to intervene with the imperial cult; then, the papacy also borrowed from the heathen Roman Empire the method of execution of the heretics by burning them alive.

Those Manicheans, who survived persecutions in Byzantine Empire, fled and settled in Europe (France, North Italy, the Balkans). During sixth–eleventh centuries, the underground sect penetrated another countries, reached India, Turkestan, Tibet, and Western China, and in the twelfth century, revived under the name of Albigensians or Cathari in Southern France and Northern Italy [Baybrook 314; Vacandard 50; Willett 13].

The apparently virtuous manner of life of the Perfected contrasted so drastically with the life of the papal clergy [e.g., *New Catholic Encyclopedia* 10:959], that the Perfected attracted many followers and the Albigensians–Cathari–Manichean movement [w3] became the actual threat to the papal power. Eventually, the papacy organized the crusade against Albigensians/Cathari in Southern France, and the papal Inquisition began to exterminate the Albigensians–Cathari–Manicheans. The physical extermination took almost two centuries (1199 – the end of the fourteenth century). However, the doctrine continued to live and penetrated the very core of the papal establishment.

▣ The following line of the events (**1** through **5**) illustrates how the heresy of the executed heretics overwhelmed the executors' establishment.

1. In the fifth century, the Roman pope Leo the Great condemned the communion in one element (by bread only) as heresy, because it was the practice of the Manicheans: in imitation of the ancient rite of the Zoroastrians, the Manicheans replaced the Eucharist with breaking of bread [Vacandard 58; Lea 2:472–474].

2. The Fourth Lateran Council (in 1215, about 10 years before Tomas Aquinas was born) recognized the proper (orthodox) order of the Holy Communion in the statement: by the power of God, bread is transubstantiated into the Body of Christ and wine into the Blood of Christ [*Documents of the Christian Church* 163].

3. In the thirteenth century, Thomas Aquinas, the main papal theologian whose doctrine became the official doctrine of the papal church of Rome, modified the concept of transubstantiation with the Aristotle's concept of accidents – inessential, although detectible by senses, changeable property of the substance.

In particular, Aquinas asserted: as soon as "an accident is divinely given the power to exist in itself," the accident becomes able to be "in itself the subject of another accident" [Thomas Aquinas *Summa Theologica* III Q.75 a2, a4, a5; Q.77 a2; *Documents of the Christian Church* 163–166]. The essence of the Aquinas'

assertion is the logical gymnastics in the Aristotelian style:

– there is no difference between "accidents"; therefore, this something that human senses discern as bread has no different essence that another something that human senses discern as fruit of vine

– there is no difference between bread and fruit of vine anymore – the transubstantiated bread is both the flesh and the blood

– as soon as the "accident" (bread) by the divine power becomes able to exist by itself, without substance, to assume another substance, and to become the subject of another accident, there is no difference between the communion by two elements (bread and fruit of vine) or by one element (bread only).

It means that Aquinas armed with the Aristotelian logic contradicted the most sacred tradition of the Christian Church. As soon as Aquinas was recognized as the main papal theologian, the papal establishment, eventually, accepted the communion of the Manicheans instead of the Divine Eucharist.

The Church is the Christian Church only if she preserves the order of the Eucharist established by God Himself. The Cup of Salvation as the symbol of the anticipated Christianity was foreseen long before coming of the Messiah {*Psalm 115:13*}. At His last supper, Lord God Jesus Christ called Himself "the True Vine" and His followers – the branches, which must bear the fruits. God gave His disciples a cup with fruit of vine; with the words "Drink of it, all of you, for this is My Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for many for the forgiveness of sins," He established the order of the Holy Communion, which all His followers should keep in remembrance of Him {*Matthew 26:26–28; Mark 14:22–24; Luke 22:17, 19–20; John 15:1*}. The order of the Eucharist is the most precious tradition, which unifies the people into the Christian Church.

4. The Council of Trent (1545–1563), which was guided by "the mind and spirit of St. Thomas" and which was summoned to define the Catholic doctrine and to reform the papal church [Walz ref. in: *New Catholic Encyclopedia* 14:134], at session 21, of June 16, 1562, denied that the Holy Communion with both elements is a "divine commandment," asserted that the custom to use both elements had been changed "in the course of time," and condemned those who deny that "the whole Christ is received when Holy Communion is received under the form of bread alone" [*Decrees of the Ecumenical Councils* 726–727; *Documents of the Council of Trent* in Latin ref. and qtd. in: Hughes, Philip 327–328].

The decision of the Council of Trent contradicts the Gospels and the words of St. Paul the Apostle with which he conveys "the received from the Lord Himself" order of the Holy Communion: with bread that is His Body given for many, and the Cup that is the new covenant in His Blood shed for many for the forgiveness of sins { *Matthew 26:26–28; Mark 14:22–24; Luke 22:17, 19–20; 1 Corinthians 11:23–27*}.

5. However, contrary to the commandment of God, contrary to the Roman pope who lived five centuries before the Great Schism (and whose proclamations Catholics must take as infallible judgment – according to the article of papal faith), and contrary to the post–Schism Council of the papal church of Rome (the Fourth Lateran Council, in 1215), the Aquinas' modification of the most sacred tradition of the Christian Church resulted in revival of the old Manichean heresy. Hence, the papacy withdrew the Cup of Eucharist from the Catholic laity; the communion with both elements (bread and fruit of vine) was left available only for the papal hierarchy: the pope, prelates, the papal clergy, etc.

The Council of Constance (1414–1418) named the official reason for such a practice as avoidance of "various dangers and scandals." The Council also warned that the priests who "communicate the people under the form of both bread and wine" would be excommunicated [*Decrees of the Ecumenical Councils* 418–419]. So, although the papacy does not punish the priests who commit mortal sins, yet, who are the obedient papal servants, it excommunicates those who follow the commandment of God: God's followers – the Christians – are not welcome in the papal church.

Deprivation of the papal subject of the Cup of Eucharist is the most dreadful event in the history of the Western civilization, which confirms ultimate destruction of the Christian Church of Rome and establishment of the heathen establishment – the papal empire – on her ruins:

— although the papacy through the Inquisition physically exterminated the Manicheans, the main papal theologian and canonized papal saint Thomas Aquinas incorporated the Manichean heresy into the papal dogma

— those who in violation of the Christian teachings shed blood of the countless "heretics" and worship the idol/pope, became unable to keep and thus, by their own will, forfeited the most precious tradition of the Christians.

The acceptance of the Manichean heresy (communion with bread only) by the papal hierarchy triggered off the revolt of the faithful Christians in Bohemia under the leadership of Jan Hus the priest who demanded the Cup of Eucharist for all the laity, because Lord God Jesus Christ gave it to all. The papacy denounced Jan Hus and his followers (who believed in the supreme authority of the Gospels and refused to accept the papal heresy) as disobedient to the Roman Church schismatics and heretics, who "rashly dared to assert that the Christian people ought to receive the Holy Sacrament of the Eucharist under the form of both bread and vine" [*Decrees of the Ecumenical Councils* 418].

The personal destiny of Jan Hus the priest illustrates the deadly potential of heresy covered with the label of "the article of faith" and protected with the oppressive worldly structures: he was summoned to the Council of Constance with the oath of "safe–conduct" (the guarantee of physical safety), condemned as a heretic, and, in violation of the oath of "safe–conduct," burnt at stake, in 1415. The reasons for the perjury included not only rejection of the Aquinas' heresy; Jan Hus reminded the papacy and its subjects – Catholics – of the right order of the Christian Church: the highest authority is the Word–God, not heresy, which became the core of the papal dogma through philosophical speculations, figments of imagination, compromises, and slavish praises produced by the theologians philosophizing at the steps of the pope's throne.

The anger of the papacy was also fueled by the Jan Hus' appeal directly to Lord God Jesus Christ as to the Supreme Judge, "bypassing the church's intermediaries" and "greatly scandalizing Christ's faithful" [*Decrees of the Ecumenical Councils* 428]. It looks like the main reason for the "scandal" was the rejection of the papal pretense to be the "supreme judge" and "mediator" between God and man. Yet, following the Scriptures, Jan Hus did not honor usurpation of the place of God committed by the pope: Jan Hus refused to commit the sin of blasphemy by ascribing the attributes of God to the creature. For Jan Hus, as for all Christians, Lord God Jesus Christ is the only mediator between God and man and the only Supreme Judge. Only through Him, the Holy Spirit comes from God the Father, and only because of Him a human soul–heart–mind, illuminated and educated by the Holy Spirit, becomes the dwelling of God {*Matthew 23:8–10; John 14:6, 15–27; 1 Timothy 2:5; 1 Peter 5:4}*.

The *Sentence of Degradation against Jan Hus* and *Condemned Articles of J. Hus* indicate that Jan Hus by literally following the Gospels and Epistles of the Apostles {e.g., *1 Peter 5:1–4*} consistently and completely refuted the main Aquinas' assertions concerning the papacy, especially the claims on the supremacy and "divine" status of the pope and papal hierarchy. Thus, for his loyalty to God and steadfast Christian faith, Jan Hus was burned alive as a heretic.

Concerning destiny of Jan Hus, see **Heresy** – ***reprint*** in **Note 4** to ***Selections_&_Reprints***; concerning influence of Manichaeism onto the Western theology, see ***Doctrine of Thomas Aquinas*** – Folder ***Heathen Philosophy***.

Σ2 See ***Origen***

Σ3 Thomas Aquinas (1225?–1274) the main theologian of the papal church of Rome, was a Dominican monk whose brethren–inquisitors enthusiastically exterminated the Albigensian–Manichean–Cathari heresy. The Dominican Order (this order includes for instance, such members as the assassin of Henry III, king of France, and inquisitor Jacobo Sprengero – the co–author of *Malleus Maleficarum*) recognized the Aquinas' doctrine as its official teachings. The Dominicans began to defend the Aquinas' doctrine with the same diligence with which they exterminated heretics and witches.

The Roman pope John XXII canonized Thomas Aquinas in 1323; the papal theologians named him the greatest philosopher, and the popes highly praise him [see the papal references in: Kreeft 11; Synave and Benoit 9; *New Catholic Encyclopedia* 14:109–110]. According to the Code of Canon Law, all Catholic priests must be

trained with the Aquinas' doctrine, principles, and method. In the beginning of the twentieth century, during pontificate of Pius X, Aquinas' *Summa Theologica* became the textbook for all papal institutions. Contemporary scholastics present Thomism as the alternative to modernization of Catholicism with *nouvelle théologie*, which might be linked with Marxism and existentialism [Dulles 120–121].

After Aquinas' death, some Catholic theologians and members of the papal hierarchy unsuccessfully attempted to condemn Thomism, at least indirectly, while the countries, which rejected the papal authority, discarded Thomism completely. After canonization of Thomas Aquinas, any papal subject who refutes the Aquinas' doctrine might be deposed from the papal office and might face condemnation for heresy [*New Catholic Encyclopedia* 14:129–130, 132]. Until now, the loyal papal theologians do not dare to expose the actual meaning of the Aquinas' political theology: the doctrine of Mani and the heathen philosophy; the subject of their disagreement with Thomism involves mostly the philosophical issues.

At present, the Aquinas' doctrine, referred to as "neo–Aristotelian system" [Holmes 7], as "Christian Aristotelianism" [McKeon 149], or simply as Aristotle–Aquinas' political theology, remains the official theological doctrine of the papal church of Rome; it is the core of the Magisterium teachings and basis of the papal politics.

See ***Doctrine of Thomas Aquinas*** – Folder ***Heathen Philosophy***, and *The Invincible Empire*, Chapter 6.

Σ4 Although the flesh is weak and the human weakness might accompany even the apostles of God {*Matthew 26:41; John 6:63; 2 Corinthians 12:7–10*}, the errors in comprehension occur only in the beginning of the way to God, when the mind discovers the reality of the true knowledge and sometimes might overestimate own preparedness. If such a mind has not learnt to discard own imagination as the source of knowledge, it assumes that it comprehends the true knowledge, while it continues to consume own phantasms. Then, it succumbs to pride and imagines that it can enlighten the others. This kind of **misconception** ***[[***see **Note** further***]]*** creates philosophizing theologians and other candidates for "the saints of ignorance."

In a case of the mind, which seeks and eventually finds the way to God, after the mind becomes ready for the true knowledge, it closes itself in deep silence. It has focused itself on God and does not need praise, encouragement, or other manifestations of the material world transmitted through the sensory perception: it had found the treasure for which it paid everything it had {*Matthew 13:44–45*}. Only the necessity to instruct the next generations might coerce such a mind to break silence: unfortunately, it is a rare occasion. Evil and ignorance cry at any crossroad and fill the minds of people with false, lies, and addiction to fruitless phantasms, while wisdom dwells in silence. The still small voice of reason almost disappeared from the daily life of many, and with each day, it becomes more and more difficult for them to discern the evil in the things that compose the daily routine or customary manner of existence.

Hence, the problem is that the people, who are unable to recognize the truth, become the easy prey for the false prophets and then, elevate them to the rank of the saints and then, begin to consider their heretical fantasies as the dogma inaccessible for critical analysis and reevaluation.

In general, by the very definition of sainthood, the state of holiness, which presumably distinguishes the canonized saint from an ordinary sinner, is not compatible with the errors concerning knowledge of God and absolutely excludes any contradiction of the words of God. Two conditions accompany transformation of a person into a true saint: the inner state of the mind that has become the dwelling of God and the true knowledge of God, which prevents evil thoughts and deeds. The saints are the saints because they are not able to have evil thoughts. As soon as any action begins with thought, the saints are not able to commit evil toward other men, because they are not able to have the evil thoughts.

However, the process of canonization by the hierarchical quasi–religious and political establishments, into which many churches have degenerated, produces questionable results: only God sees ***the inner man***, the true essence – soul–heart–mind, and only God is the True and Ultimate Judge of His creations. Therefore, canonization of humans by the religious establishments and the consequent worship of saints is problematic practice, which – as the direct violation of the second of The Ten Commandments {Thou shall have no other gods beside Me – *Exodus 20:3*} – might easily initiate idol–worship, prevent identification of heresies and expulsion of heretics who follow them and even impose them as the articles of faith unto other members of their religious establishment.

The inner man – mentioned by St. Peter the Apostle {hidden heart of man – *1 Peter 3:4*} is the soul–heart–mind, which carries the image and likeness of God. St. Paul the Apostle describes such a new creation of Christ and in Christ as the one enabled to act as the co–worker of God {***Θεου γαρ εσμεν συνεργοι*** – *1 Corinthians 3:9*}, who is the God's field and God's building/construction {***Θεου γεωργιον***, ***Θεου οικοδομη*** – *1 Corinthians 3:9*} – the space prepared for the works of God and the masterpiece of God, as everything created by God is the masterpiece, which man should learn, comprehend and imitate.

Note concerning misconception:

From the practical point of view, **misconception** is the false belief, erroneous judgment, or delusion. As such, misconception might be explained only by the special condition of human mind: to be able of misconception, the mind must lose the ability to discern the good and the evil that is to become unable to perceive the essence of things. Consequently, the mind loses the power of logical reasoning: it accepts as the truth whatever the other's imagination can offer, including false gods/idols, erroneous judgments, and other lies.

Consequently, the meaning of misconception might be explained as the failure of reasoning and loss of freedom of thinking, which is based on inability to discern the good and the evil (that is, firstly, truth and lies) and which results in spiritual slavery. The road into spiritual slavery is open for the heart–mind without steadfast faith in God, without unwavering conscience, without true knowledge of God, and without love to God. Ignorance and deprivation of true knowledge of God are two necessary conditions for enslaving the mind.

False knowledge, lies, and misconception expose a special mental state, in which the mind operates with the perverted logic and therefore, is able to repeat or reproduce the pattern of the original sin ***[[***concerning original sin, see **Note 58** to ***Selections_&_Reprints]]***, although it already known that the original sin led to death.

The Books of Prophets lead to conclusion that misconception and the subsequent acceptance of the false knowledge as truth are the consequences of the "wrath of God" – the state of human soul that has rejected the Light, took the way into the eternal darkness–death, and lost the ability to create the good: in all its endeavors, is limited to creations of miserable hovels of clay built on sand {*Matthew 7:21–27; John 3:16–21, 36; 15:4–6*}.

The root of misconception is separation from God: the mind, which rejects God or which is deprived of the knowledge of God, accepts lies as truth, delusion and perplexity as enlightenment, and slavery as freedom.

Misconception is a foundation of sin, because if the mind lives by false assumptions, it becomes incapable of keeping the words of God and therefore, unable to accomplish the purposes, which it was created to accomplish.

For instance, misconception of Eve who accepted the lies of cunning brute as truth and rejected the truth of the words of God was followed by mistrust of God and disobedience to His will. Because of mistrust of God and disobedience to His will, Adam and Eve committed the original sin, for which they were expelled from the Garden of Delight, cast into the cursed–downgraded earth and destined ***[[***along with their posterity – mankind***]]*** to learn the evil and to cognize death.

Misconception makes possible substitution of lies for truth, false assumption for knowledge, and the evil for the good: the first stage of spiritual slavery is misconception – impaired judgment of the mind deprived of knowledge of God and of love to God.

Acceptance of false knowledge is possible only because of misconception.

See **The Misconception** – ***reprint*** follows ***[[***edited; **Notes** include references to new postings***]]***

…their heart is ashes, and they err,
and no one is able to deliver his soul:
see, you will not say, a lie is in my right hand….
{Isaiah 44:20}

Isaiah the Prophet speaks of idol–makers {*Isaiah 44:14–20*}: they cut the pine tree from the forest that God planted and upon which He rained. They take wood, and a part of it they burn to warm themselves and to bake loaves; from the rest, they make their gods and worship them. They have no understanding to perceive, for they have been blinded, so they should neither see by their eyes nor perceive by their heart. Their heart is ashes, and they err, and none is able to deliver his soul, and to recognize that they hold a lie.

Any healthy and sound human mind would come to conclusion that to make wooden statue and worship it awaiting deliverance and assistance is irrational and foolishness of delusional mind: it is misconception.

However, the idol–making and idol–worship became the favorite activities of many. The idol–makers are numerous; they might be found everywhere and their products are habitually consumed by individuals, groups, and entire nations.

Today, those who worship visible idols (e.g., statutes, objects, planets) are the minority. Those who worship the invisible idols and their visible embodiments are countless, as the invisible idols are countless. The invisible idols are ideologies, false religions, cults, ideas, doctrines, etc. Although they are invisible (for instance, who can see an idea or a philosophical doctrine until they materialize into spoken or written words, books, political organization, empire, etc.?), their embodiments – deified men (rulers, leaders, "universal teachers/shepherds") and their establishments (states, religious and political organizations) generated by fruitful human imagination and built by industrious human hands, multiply and advance.

In general, everyone knows that idol–worship is misconception, delusion, false belief, erroneous judgment: idols are figments of human imagination, and they have as much power over men as much power men ascribe to them. Therefore, as any lie, idol–worship exists only because of slavery – slavery of ignorance and sin. As any of lies, idol–worship leads to death, because the father of lies was the murderer from the beginning and there is no truth in him {*John 8:44*}.

For instance, the history of the Phoenician civilization, the offspring of Noah's grandson cursed for the sin of his father {*Genesis 9:24–25*}, reveals that the curse of slavery manifests itself through idol–worship***Σe1.*** The Phoenicians burned their first–born children and prostituted their daughters as the sacrifice to the idols. Moreover, they carried these practices and underlying beliefs through all the lands and nations in which they spread from their mother–cities: they burned and corrupted own children, because their mind was enslaved by false beliefs. What then, made the Phoenicians to believe that death of a child can bring for the people salvation and prosperity – or whatever else is desirable?

Although the practice of human sacrifice still lives in the remote lands and in secret societies, some part of world population came to the conclusion that the Phoenician religion is a misconception. Because of the tragic misconception, the idols gained such a power over men, that the Phoenicians ***Σe2*** sacrificed children – own and bought from the poor families.

What then, are the roots and the nature of misconception?

As soon as misconception is the false believe, erroneous judgment, or delusion, the misconception might be explained only by the special condition of human mind. To be able of misconception, the mind must lose the ability to discern the good and the evil that is to become unable to perceive the essence of things. Consequently, the mind loses the power of logical reasoning: it accepts as the truth whatever other's imagination can offer, including false gods/idols, erroneous judgments, and other lies.

Consequently, the meaning of misconception might be explained as the failure of reasoning and loss of freedom of thinking, which is based on inability to discern the good and the evil (that is, firstly, truth and lies) and which results in spiritual slavery***Σe3.*** The road into spiritual slavery is open for the heart–mind without steadfast faith in God, without unwavering conscience, without true knowledge of God, and without love to God. Ignorance and deprivation of true knowledge of God are two necessary conditions for enslaving the mind. Spiritual slavery begins with misconception that is manifested as

either
with rejection of the words of God for those who have no steadfast unwavering faith
and faithful heart filled with love to God

or
with impaired judgment of the mind deprived of true knowledge of God

Two groups of human minds make spiritual slaves
1/ the apostates who knowingly and deliberately reject God and accept idols
2/ ignorant and deceived who are deprived of the knowledge of truth and therefore, accept as the truth any assertion that has appearance of truth.
In general, **spiritual slavery** is

acceptance of the opinions of the others and their judgments as the truth
↓
silencing of own conscience and rejection of own reasoning and judgment
↓
unreserved submission to the will of the others

Equally, in those who initially had at least some knowledge of God and in those who initially had no knowledge of God, misconception allows substitution of lies for truth, false assumption for knowledge, and the evil for the good; ultimately, spiritual slavery takes the place of spiritual freedom, yet, the first stage is misconception – impaired judgment of the mind deprived of knowledge of God and love to God.

For a human being, spiritual slavery is sin, because a human being in a state of spiritual slavery has to forfeit the most precious gift of God – own judgment as the foundation of own reasoning, therefore, as the actualization of own personality. Spiritual slavery is always de–individualization incompatible with the human nature, denigration of man, and transformation of a free human being into a part of the herd of "social animals" and property of those with the access to the power of coercion. Spiritual slavery is the perversion of the human nature and, therefore, sin***Σe4*** before God, because

1/ slavery***Σe3*** not only deprives of freedom of choice and freedom of actions necessary for achievement of the purposes, which a human being has been created to achieve; slavery is perversion of human nature. A human being is created in image and after likeness of free Almighty Omnipotent God the Spirit, and where is the Spirit of God there is freedom {*Genesis 1:26–27; John 4:24; 2 Corinthians 3:17*}. It means that spiritual slavery is possible only if the mind rejects God and if the idol – man, doctrine, religion, etc. – takes the place of God in human heart

2/ slavery is death of reason, therefore, inabilities to perceive and to comprehend the words of God, to find God, and to come to God, so sin would be forgiven, the heart–mind healed and given wisdom, firstly, as ability to discern the good and the evil {our God is God of knowledge Who gives wisdom; from His presence, knowledge and understanding come – *1 Kings 2:3; Proverbs 2:6*}.

The root of misconception is separation from God: the mind, which rejects God or which is deprived of the knowledge of God, accepts lies as truth, delusion and perplexity as enlightenment, and slavery as freedom.

Misconception is a foundation of sin, because if the mind lives by false assumptions, it becomes incapable of keeping the words of God and therefore, unable to accomplish the purposes, which it was created to accomplish.

What then, might protect the mind from misconception and sin, especially from the deadly disease of idol–worship?

The answer is in the Holy Scriptures: Εν τη καρδια μου εκρυψα τα λογια Σου, οπως αν μη αμαρτω Σοι – in my heart, I have hidden Thy words, so I might not sin against Thee {*Psalm 118:11*}.

The words of God accepted by the human heart–mind as the Absolute truth and hidden within the heart–mind protect man from misconception, therefore, from spiritual slavery, therefore, from sin.

Then, God tells His followers that if they stay in His Word, they are truly His disciples, and they will know the truth, and the truth will set them free, because everyone who practices sin, is a slave of sin. Only if the Son – the Word–God – sets them free, they will be free indeed {*John 8:31–36*}.

The words of God purify the heart–mind and protect it from sin, because the Word–God gives knowledge of truth. For instance, if the mind knows its Creator, it rejects idols along with those who propagate idol–worship; the knowledge of truth defends the mind from those who attempt to enslave it through misconception.

We are born by the Word of truth, to be the first–fruit of His creatures. Thus, we should receive the implanted Word that saves the soul; we should be the doers of the Word, those who look into the Word as into the mirror and stay in the perfect Law of freedom {*James 2:21–25*}.

There is a simple recipe for the beginners, for those who wish to learn how to avoid misconceptions and to stay in truth – in the Word–God: read the Gospels, think, and apply the words of God toward own daily life. With each word of God, the mind comes closer to the understanding of truth. Ultimately, the ability to discern the good and the evil will evolve and bring the clarity of perception and understanding, with which misconception is not possible…"

Original post in Folder Archive_2011, Page 5_September_October_2011

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Notes:

Σε1 See **Idolatry** – ***reprint*** in **Note 29** to ***Selections_&_Reprints***

Σε2 The Phoenicians worshiped their idols by burning own first–born children, other human beings, and animals. Concerning the Phoenician civilization, see **The Curse of Cain** – ***reprint*** in **Note 45** to ***Selections_&_Reprints***, and ***Ancient Civilizations: Legacy Overview***

Σε3 See **Note 26** to ***Selections_&_Reprints***

Σε4 Sin is a violation of the law of God; it is failure to achieve the purposes, inability to accomplish the mission of man, firstly, inability to create the good that is to fulfill the Law/will of God. Sin is anomaly – abnormality of human behavior issuing from perversion of the human nature and, therefore, violation of the Law of God.

Sin is a violation of the law of God: the failure to achieve the purposes, an inability to create the good that is to fulfill the Law/will of God; thus, sin is an inability to accomplish the mission of man.

In Greek, **sin** is **αμαρτια** – missing the mark, inability to get something needed or desirable or proper.

Any violation of the law of God by thought, by words, or by actions is a perversion of the human nature ***[[***e.g., idol–worship, assassination, adultery***]]***, therefore, the crime against God, own nature, and other human beings. The law of God is the essence of the human mind–heart; thus, sin as ανομια – lawlessness, iniquity, illegality, wickedness – is anomaly or perversion inconsistent with the human nature.

Consequently, the sinner's own mind becomes his judge and executor: violation of the Law of God initiates the disorder or illness (mental or physical), which leads to degeneration, further perversion, impairment and collapse of the immune system, abnormal offspring, premature death. The mind of a sinner, who violated the Law by the actions/words/thoughts inconsistent with the human nature, triggers off the abnormal mutation, which may result not only in lethal illness of the sinner himself: it may be transferred to his children. This simple link is known since revelation of the law ***[[***The Ten Commandments***]]*** accompanied with Moses' warning to his tribesmen concerning life–blessing to those who live according to the law of God and curse–death for those who disregard the law of God. Only mercy and all–embracing Perfect Love of God annihilates sin/evil and restores heath of the sinner {*Exodus 34:6–7; Deuteronomy 30:11–20;* also cf. in: *John 9:1–41; 1 Peter 2:1–10; 1 John 2; 3; 4; 5*}, if he comes to understanding the he has committed sin, repents, and turns to God asking for forgiveness and healing. If unacknowledged, forgiven not, and unhealed, sin multiplies and the measures of the evil are filled by each consequent generation until the καιρος of the reality, in which the sinner lives, or which he has created and filled with his sin, comes before God {e.g., see: *Isaiah 6:8–13; Matthew 13:10–16; 24; Mark 4:11–12; John 12:37–43; Genesis 6:12–14; 15:13–16*}.

Sin also might be envisioned as the conditions of life, which make thoughts, words, and actions sinful ***[[***or, from another angle of consideration, insufficient – giving no chance to achieve perfection, which is achievable only if a human being evolves according to the human nature: by accomplishing the law of God***]]*** that is committed in unrighteousness, immorality, with evil intentions.

For instance, in the terms of immorality, sin signifies intentional disregard of knowledge of the virtues ***[[***e.g., for media spreading corruption, perversion, and violence, which are inconsistent with the law of God***]]***; in the terms of evil intentions, sin is any act — whichever justification their originators assert and in the name of whichever deity they commit it — leading to detriment, deprivation, and injury of any kind, which could result in depriving of the others of well–being, possessions, good repute, life.

Everything and anything that contains the seed of the evil, for instance, false assumption, becomes the evil and leads to the evil by making someone to sin.

Sin also might be identified as an illusion of own righteousness, self–identification as the one above the laws of men, indifference to the others and disregard of their needs and misery – physical or spiritual, and self–ascribing possession of abilities to achieve the purposes when there are none.

The thoughts, words, and actions are sinful, if they are not originated by love to God, because of love to the others, and upon knowledge of God; then, they are lawlessness, and the one who creates–does them either has no knowledge of the law or disregards the law. Hence, the one who has such illusions is a dreamer ***[[***e.g. as dreamers in Jude 8: ενυπνιαζομενοι – the ones giving the power of life to the dream/sprit of night***]]***, the one with the dreaming mind that creates phantasm and fantasies – figments of imagination, and lives by them.

For instance, the dreamer assumes that he is rich and powerful while he is poor and weak {e.g., in: *Revelation 3:14–21*}; he assumes that he would be able to survive, to live in prosperity and abundance, and to accomplish his purposes without observance of the law of God within the universe that was created according to the law/will of God.

Such assumptions are illusion, dreams, figments of imagination. Their creator and their consumers are sinners who operate with false knowledge, live by non–existing artificial worlds, and therefore, fail to achieve the purposes, which determine the meaning of human existence. In other words, a sinner escapes into the imaginary world because either of his ignorance or of his unwillingness to accept the responsibilities before God and before His creations.

Ignorance of the mind makes the one insufficient that is capable of sin: insufficient knowledge, deprivation of the truth and insufficient love ***[[***as well as open hatred***]]*** to the others are the roots of sin ***[[***sin is any evil thought, word, action***]]***.

Lord God Jesus Christ equated sinners to slaves {*John 8:31–36*}:

everyone doing sin is a slave of sin
{*John 8:34*}

Hence, according to the words of God {in: *John 8:31–47*}, those accustomed to sin are the slaves of sin: the ones who live by the evil, who do the works of the evil, and who are controlled by the evil, because, within their mind, they do not have place for the words of God ***[[***see ***Concept of Slavery*** – Supplement to this file, and **Slavery** – ***reprint*** in **Note 26** to ***Selections_&_Reprints]]***.

Sin is a disease of the soul, which wastes soundness of body; only after man acknowledges his sins before God (that is after he comprehended the reasons of his failure and imperfection), he receives forgiveness, and then, he might be cured {*Psalm 31(32):3–7; Luke 5:17–26, 30–32*}.

Furthermore, the sins of our ancestors, for which forgiveness of God was not sought, as well as our own sins {*Genesis 3:1–14; Exodus 34:6–7; Psalm 105(106):6*} are the reasons of our misery: we eat the spoiled fruits, grown by all those who lived before us, as well as those, which we ourselves have brought upon the earth.

The Greek theologians considered sin as a state of the freely chosen death – death of the soul, which rejected God: although the soul is immortal, without God it does not have life, because if it does not live in God, it dwells in death [St. Maximus the Confessor 34 in: *The Philokalia* 2:244; St. Gregory Palamas §8 in: *The Philokalia* 4:295].

In general, the one might comprehend the essence of sin as the failure to create or to cognize good. Sin also is

making—giving place to—assuming—doing the evil
instead of
creating—doing the good

Everything and anything that contains the seed of the evil, for instance, false assumption, becomes the evil and leads to evil – makes someone to sin.

See also

- **Note 27**, **41**, and **58 to** ***Selections_&_Reprints***
- ***The Discernment***
- **The Main Fruits of the Ancient Philosophical Thought: Heathenism** in ***Ancient Civilizations: Legacy Overview***

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Σ5 See ***The Absolute*** and ***CHRISTIANITY***

Σ6 See **The Church Militants** in **Political Theology***,* Folder ***Political Theology***

Σ7 See ***Philo of Alexandria***

Σ8 **Concerning the Orphic doctrine**:

The core of the **Orphic doctrine** might be identified in almost all survived heathen religions and cults focused on worship of the arch–evil.

The Orphics compiled the doctrine of the "divine absolute animal" – the dragon–serpent–beast, within which all forms of all living beings are contained, among which a human form is an insignificant one – just one of the multitudes of beings. Since, all religions rooted in the Orphism, and therefore, deifying the arch–evil that was the murderer of man from the beginning {*John 8:44; Genesis 3*}, can be easily recognized by three features, which express their inhumane core – manifestly or covered with slogans/propaganda concerning ideals of humanity: 1/ rejection of the divine nature of man, 2/ animosity to man and hatred to woman, and 3/ use of lies and deceit for advancement and achievement of purposes.

Invention of the deified universal serpent–beast made possible numerous cults of animals of all kinds and especially, provided the justification of sacrifice of human beings to the beasts, because the ancient diviners characterized the human nature as the inferior to the bestiality of animal "gods." The basic logic of idol–worship is based on the assumption that if the supreme deity is the beast with horns, wings, tails, paws, bull heads, etc., those in the image of beast are the superior creatures.

The influence of Orphic doctrine might be traced in all heathen cults and doctrines which sustain the contemporary atheistic and neo–heathen systems of thought.

Some researchers refer to the **Orphism** as the source of the "divine Muse of Homer" and of the "sublime theology" of Pythagoras and Plato [e.g., Thomas Taylor qtd. and ref. in Hall (2003) 74].

Indeed, the Orphic serpentine "theology" is the actual foundation of Plato's philosophy, especially, the concept of forms–ideas–archetypes, with which he evidently, followed Pythagoras (who was initiated into the Egyptian–Eleusinian–Orphic–other mysteries, and asserted that all material objects have forms as their essence): indeed, if the main – universal or "absolute" – bestial deity contains the forms of wild beasts why it cannot accommodate the forms of all other creatures and objects, which compose the Universe?

Consequently, if to substitute the philosophical "essence–idea–form" for the Orphic "image," the ultimate meaning of Platonism (recognized as the pinnacle of philosophical thought) is revealed as a set of phantasms – the irrational imaginary world of heathen cults of serpent. For the unbiased mind, the wordings covering the essence of Platonism and issuing doctrines should not conceal the true meaning: the heathens (for instance, the Minoans, Phoenicians, Orphics, etc.) who made this imaginary world into actuality of their daily life, worshiped the "divine absolute animal" – the serpent and their prime deity conceived by the cosmic arch–serpent/dragon – by devouring children, and in this imaginary world, humans are the beasts made after the image of their bestial deities. The Orphic doctrine [in: Graves; Hall; *The Sunset Knowledge*] became the foundation not only of the Greek heathen philosophy; it also sustains Gnosticism, Neoplatonism, theosophy, and many other cults and assumptions, including those developed within the framework of the Western civilization.

For instance, with the Orphic logic, Manly P. Hall not only infers supremacy of the "philosophy's God" over "a personal God"; he refers to Orphism as to "theology," which cannot be destroyed and which "in a more philosophic era … shall shine forth again with splendor undiminished" [Hall (2005) 218, 224].

Indeed, this "undiminished splendor" of Orphic myths identified as "philosophy" and "theology" still "shines" through the contemporary sciences.

In particular, the contemporary continuation of the ancient beast–worship might be diagnosed, for instance, in transhumanism and in the logic of the contemporary Darwinism– and atheism–driven ethics–free scientists and researchers. The followers of transhumanism are busy by designing improvement of the human nature and manufacturing of supermen – they attempt to chain man to their understanding of perfection and to "lift man up" to the new creature with

abilities, which would overcome both – human and animal – natures. In their hatred to God and to His creations, firstly, to man, the Darwinism/atheism–driven scientists downgrade man and throw the human nature down, at the level of animals.

In fact, they are in the state of secret, yet constant, war with the remnants of the human reason.

This war can be easily identified through their ferocious fighting against any positive mention of God in media, schools, research institutions, government, political, and social structures. All knowledge–creating establishments are penetrated with propaganda of the basic heathen assumption that man does not differ from animal, moreover, in some matters, human is inferior to the beasts. This propaganda allows increasing negation of the traditional human values; as the result, cynicism, corruption, and perversion supplanted mercy, humanism, virtues and human dignity within all societies, which in the recent Past tolerated or even followed Christian teachings, yet now ferociously strive to "exterminate" God from all social educational and political activities.

Atheism, assumption of similarity of human and animal nature, and eradication of the very meaning of human dignity make possible to spend enormous funds on non–human experiments on the humans and animals, including those which intervene with the natural reproduction of humans and animals (e.g., "creation" of chimeras – human–animal embryos). Having been unable to cure the lethal human diseases (these diseases might be the means of self–annihilation with which the nature prevents further abnormal mutations of immune system), the darwinism/atheism–driven scientists downgrade man at the level of rodents and monkeys, on which they develop their "medicine" and vaccines.

However, the simple truth is that the rodent–monkey–based medicine is not effective for human beings and their long–term consequences for the human nature are not known. For instance, with all the costly efforts and their results – drugs and medical techniques, the sciences are neither able to find the real causes nor effective treatment for ultimate healing and prevention of cancer of all kinds, tuberculosis, poliomyelitis, HIV, allergies and other immune disorders, mental illnesses and disorders, as well as many other plagues. Moreover, the monstrous ignorance of "saviors of mankind" and its fruits, for instance, such as poisonous drugs, trigger the next circle of abnormal mutations, thus, increase the overall suffering, spread mental and physical perversion, and eventually, might culminate in annihilation of mankind. Indeed, as of today, the meaning of humaneness is already forgotten by many.

The recent Past discloses the potential of unleashed ethics–free "scientific" imagination.

For instance, the scientists at the service of Nazis accepted the notion of racial inferiority of non–German nations. Within the society that assumed neo–pagan cult of Nazis, they asserted that human beings, who belong to the "inferior nations," are not complete human beings, that they are "underhumans" not different from animals. Consequently, in accordance with their logic, they inferred that if man constructed slaughterhouses for animals and if "underhumans" do not differ from animals, the unwanted "underhumans" – in the similar fashion, as their equals (animals) –

— can be "processed" with a particular "effective device," e.g., such as a concentration camp

— the ashes from the ovens of such a camp can be used as a fertilizer for the German soil

— the "underhumans" in the concentration camps can be used as the laboratory animals.

Those who learn the unbiased history of the totalitarian sates of the twentieth century can see how the neo–pagans and ethics–free sciences have implemented their inferences.

With time, the logic of Orphics, through the doctrines of Plato and Aristotle, became the common foundation of thinking and learning, on which the Western and other civilizations built on Plato–Aristotle's social–political–philosophical utopia come to being, strive for existence, and collapse, because by their very nature they are not capable of achievement the purposes for which they are created. This logic is logic of simplification, logic of collapse and disintegration incompatible with the logic of the evolution, with which the evolving systems capable to sustain evolution of mind and its creations (e.g., societies and other establishments) should be designed and maintained.

For instance, the Orphic doctrine sustains Plato–Aristotle's philosophy, which embodied the heathen vision of the Universe and the "ideals of humanity" into the chain of most destructive concepts:

slavery as the natural foundation of the society

⇓

man as a part/property of the community

⇓

supremacy of the good of the community over the good, happiness, liberties, and interests of a person

⇓

mandatory restriction of the freedom of thought and religion, control and regulation of the life of members/citizens as the means of survival of the "perfect" community–state

⇓

termination of the different–minded as the legitimate practice of the community–state, which has to protect itself from the wrath of deities by expulsion or execution of atheists, followers of another cults, and different–minded of any kind, therefore, by sacrificing life and well–being of its members–men for the sake of the good of men's establishment

With philosophical doctrines and utopias compiled by Plato and Aristotle and elaborated by the flock of their followers, the Orphic myths eventually penetrated Western and some Eastern theological schools, which admit heathen philosophy as a legitimate source of the theological knowledge.

The Orphism is the most distinctively formed core of the heathenism. Hence, analysis of the different philosophical, religious, and political doctrines rooted in Orphism

a/ facilitates understanding of formation and development of different versions of the same arch–lies {*Genesis 3:1–6*}, from which the multitude of different false religions, cults, and ideologies sprung

b/ leads to the conclusion that all of them have the same the essence: rejection of true God and acceptance of idol–worship – assertion of existence of "other truths" and "other gods."

In summary,

– the term **Orphism** denotes the special knowledge framework composed with mythical serpentine theology, Orphic philosophy, and their derivatives – political, social, religious doctrines. Within Orphic framework of knowledge, many civilizations and other human establishments were arranged, achieved the zenith of their destructive potency, and were ruined or disintegrated freeing time–space for the next generations of thinkers, political, social, and religious leaders that built realm of anti–evolution

– the Orphism is the most distinctively formed core of **the heathenism** – idolatry: the realm of false religions and cults the essence of which is worship to the arch–evil in the image of the serpent; however it might be covered with different images – different idols

– the Orphism became the root, from which many heathen religions and cults sprung, especially, the cults of serpents/reptiles – the cults of death. The attributes of Orphic deities include horns, paws with claws, tails, snakes, and horned animals. For instance, the ancient Minoan goddess was coiled with snakes and held snakes; originally, Dionysus (the ancient deity of insanity and death) was depicted as the horned serpent; Python the serpent was the deity of divination, its priestesses – pythias – uttered predictions in the state of trance

– the distinctive feature of all religions and cults based upon the Orphism/cult of the arch–evil is hatred to God and to His creation – a human being. This hatred, although might be covered with sermons of peace and love, manifests itself through body–mutilating laws, sadistic corporal punishments, inhumane executions, justification of slavery and crimes against humanity if they are committed for the sake of the religion and its world–wide domination, and idol–worship to invented deities. All such religions also tolerate or even foster especial hatred to woman who might be "lawfully" and according to "the article of faith" mutilated, stoned to death, beaten, sold, raped, deprived of basic rights and liberties, kept in ignorance, murdered – all these in complete agreement with the punishment for the original sin, which made earth–man the food for the arch–evil and established special enmity between the arch–evil and the woman {*Genesis 3:15–20*}

– the Orphism sustains theological–philosophical–political doctrines of Plato, Aristotle, and their followers

– the Orphism, firstly, is mythical serpentine theology; in the Gospels, the followers of Orphism and its derivatives (cults of different idols of the Israel's neighbors – idol–worshiping nations) are referred to as "offspring of vipers," as the sons of the arch–evil ***[[***the ancient serpent of Genesis***]]***, as the ones who, within them, do not have place for the Word of God {*Matthew 3:7–12; 15:1–20; 23:1–35; Mark 7:5–13; Luke 7:29–35; 16:13–17; John 8:37–47; Genesis 3:1–6, 14–16*}.

Concerning the **Orphism** and its derivatives, see

– **The Main Fruits of the Ancient Philosophical Thought: Heathenism** and **Divination** – in ***Ancient Civilizations: Legacy Overview***

– postings in Folder ***Heathen Philosophy*** @ website ***Sunday's Thoughts***

– ***Apostasy***

– **Notes 22** and **336** to ***Selections_&_Reprints***

– **Imagination, Idolatry, The Logic of Death**, **The Strange Knowledge**, **The True Vine**, and **The Authority to Survive** – ***excerpts*** in **Notes 38**, **29**, **28**, **41**, and **22** to ***Selections_&_Reprints***

Σ9 Obviously, when the Hebrews left Egypt, they could not have gold except the "borrowed" from the Egyptians: it would be illogical to assume that the Egyptian authorities paid for bricks and field work with gold (or paid at all) to their Hebrew slaves who had to be suppressed and even exterminated as the threat to Egypt {cf.: *Exodus 1; 12:33–36; 32:1–9*}.

Σ10 See ***Philosophy: Plato*** – Folder ***Heathen Philosophy***, and *The Invincible Empire*, Chapter 4

Σ11 **Concerning Solomon:**

Solomon the king possessed the multitudes of women from the idol–worshiping nations, which were forbidden for the Israelites; these women turned the heart of aging king toward their idols. Eventually, he turned his heart away from the Lord God of Israel: he built the places where his wives worshiped the idols of Moab and Sidonians ***[[***the Moabites and the Sidonians/Phoenicians sacrificed their children and animals to male idol and sent their daughters into the temples to practice the "sacred" prostitution as the ritual of worship to the female idol; see ***Ancient Civilizations: Legacy Overview]]***.

The significance of the story of Solomon the king becomes clear, if to recall that Moses forewarned the kings of the future of the danger of Egypt and multiplying horses and women {*Deuteronomy 17:14–20*}. Solomon discarded the warnings in all three parts of the Moses' prophecy {*3 Kings 3; 10:23–29; 11:1–13; 2 Chronicles 9:25–28*} and, with all his glory, with all his "wise and discerning" heart/abilities of judgment, ultimately, turned from God to idols of his idol–worshiping women: he betrayed God and became an apostate.

Furthermore, although every pious man knows that Almighty God is Omnipotent, Solomon attempted to contradict God's will: he wanted to assassinate Jeroboam (his servant, son of the harlot) to whom the prophet predicted that he would become the king of the biggest part of the divided kingdom. So, Jeroboam fled and lived safely in Egypt until Solomon died, and then, returned in Judea and became a king over the most part of that what was the Solomon's kingdom {*3 Kings 11; 12*}.

By turning to idols, Solomon committed apostasy or **spiritual harlotry** ***[[***the Old Testament prophets refer to the apostasy of the chosen people who rejected God and became idol–worshipers as to harlotry. Hosea the prophet wrote {*Hosea 4:7–19*} that the people of God became as if they ουκ εχων γνωσιν – have no understanding. So, God promised to reject them as the priests, and to turn their glory (glory of ancient kingdom of Israel) into shame, because they have sinned before God according to their multitudes. In the same way as they went astray in a spirit of whoredom – by believing in signs and sacrificing to idols, in the same way as they mingled themselves with harlots and the polluted ones, similarly, their daughters will go a–whoring and their daughters–in–law will commit adultery: as they have chosen the ways of Canaanites (the Phoenicians), so they shall be ashamed***]]***.

Because of Solomon's apostasy/harlotry, God divided the Solomon's kingdom and rendered to Solomon's slave Jeroboam — Jeroboam the son of woman whose name was Sarira the harlot {*3 Kings 12:24* – δουλος τω Σαλωμων, …Ιεροβοαμ, και ονομα της μητρος αυτου Σαριρα, γυνη πορνη} — the most part of it, with ten tribes of Israel, leaving to Solomon's son authority only over Jerusalem. As Solomon rejected faithfulness and loyalty to God and committed harlotry by serving idols of his women, so, his glorious kingdom was rejected and cast into the hands of the son of harlot to begin the disgraceful path to the ultimate ruin.

In spite of the warning given to him by Achia the prophet, Jeroboam the son of harlot and new king led the people into the great sin: he made two golden heifers, told his subjects that the heifers are their gods, which led them out of Egypt, appointed new priests not from the tribe of Levi, set new feast day, and made sacrifices to the idols {*3 Kings 11:29–38; 12:24–33; 13*}.

After Jeroboam's death, the plague of kings–apostates took over the Promised Land {*3 Kings 11; 4 Kings*}; only the small number of the rulers from the long line of kings recognized God of Israel and followed His law. The tribes of Israel have broken their covenant with God the Creator of heaven and earth: the people sacrificed their children to idols, waged fratricidal wars, used divination, committed iniquities, and adopted abominable customs of the surrounding idol–worshiping nations and worshiped their idols, although the most part of them was removed from the Promised Land when it was given to Israel as the Lord promised {*Joshua 21:41–43*}.

As Hosea the prophet wrote {*Hosea 4:7–19*}, the people of God became as if they ουκ εχων γνωσιν – have no understanding. So, God promised to reject them as the priests, and to turn their glory (glory of ancient kingdom of Israel) into shame, because they have sinned before God according to their multitudes. In the same way as they went astray in a spirit of whoredom – by believing in signs and sacrificing to idols, in the same way as they mingled themselves with harlots and the polluted ones, their daughters will go a–whoring and their daughters–in–law will commit adultery: as they have chosen the ways of Canaanites (the Phoenicians), so they shall be ashamed.

The **Book of Isaiah** begins with description of the people who became loathsome to God – a people full of sin, lawless rebels. They do not know God: they rebelled against Him and disregarded His law. Their hands are full of blood; they are murderers, thieves, rebels, and transgressors; there is no soundness in them. Their princes are rebellious, companions of thieves, loving bribes, seeking after rewards, and not doing justice. Their silver is worthless; their merchants are deceitful; their cities are burned with fire, and their land became desolate – the strangers devour it at their presence. Their main city once full of judgment became a harlot; they shall become powerless, and their destiny is ruin and annihilation {*Isaiah 1:2–31*}.

In another chapter, Isaiah elaborates his vision of the sinful men and their world {*Isaiah 59:2–15*}; his descriptions allow comprehension of the meaning of sin, its manifestations, and its consequences.

The prophets connect the idol–worship as disloyalty to God with death – firstly, death of reason, then, physical annihilation: the inevitable companions of idol–worship – immorality, corruption, and insanity – lead to collapse of intelligence/reasoning and issuing inability of sound judgment, therefore, inability of survival.

The spiritual harlotry or unfaithfulness, as the sin of wandering disloyal human spirit, transforms a human being into the living dead. The prophets describe apostate and idol–worshipers as sick men within the sick world awaiting annihilation; thus, the summary of the prophets' warnings is straightforward: spiritual harlotry is inseparable from physical corruption leading to death:

the people are degenerates incapable of normal and creative life
and unable to protect themselves and their land
↓
their world is poisoned with the evil; their works are as spider webs unfit to be the garment;
misery and ruin are completion of their ways
↓
corruption and harlotry took place of righteousness and justice;
they have no truth nor judgment nor understanding nor enlightenment
↓
their economics ("silver") lost values and, therefore, became useless
↓
their land is devastated; they do not have peace, their endeavors are unrighteous and unsuccessful
↓
the strangers (forerunners of the conquerors) already devour their land at their presence
↓
their imminent destruction (war, slavery, death) is coming

Indeed, the Lord began to remove the apostates from the Promised Land {e.g., in: *4 Kings; Isaiah; Jeremiah; Lamentations*}. In addition to constant internecine conflicts of Israel tribes, the kings of Syria, Assyria, and Babylon continuously waged wars, besieged the cities, carried the people of Israel out of the Promised Land, and settled other nations at the place of Israelites {for instance, four nations from Babylon, as it is written in: *4 Kings 17:20–24*}. Thus, the Promised Land, as well as the adjacent countries of the Middle East, Asia, and North Africa, was cast into the fire of uninterrupted wars.

The spiritual harlotry, which began to plague the kings of the chosen nation starting with Solomon, was initiated by violations of the law of God and committed by those who disregarded the laws of Moses concerning the heathens and the warning of the prophets; it was spreading through false knowledge – knowledge of "other gods" and the consequent assertion of permissibility of any kind of corruption and perversion, especially, as the rites of idol–worship.

The examples are the Orphism and other doctrines, which sustained the cults of the heathen nations surrounding Israel ***[[***the knowledge, which the Holy Scriptures relate to lethal poison of asp and viper {e.g., *Deuteronomy 32:33; Psalm 90(91):13; 139(140):3; Isaiah 59:2–5*}***]]***, and later, through the philosophical doctrines, social and political utopias of Plato, Aristotle, and their followers became the foundation of the Western civilization.

Hence, the lesson given by the Old Testament is simple: the one who desires to survive and enter the everlasting life in the presence of God, should avoid "knowledge" of the idol–worshipers as the lethal poison that debilitates the heart–mind and makes it incapable of perceiving God and being in the presence of God.

In the New Testament, the meaning of apostasy as spiritual sin is deepened, because the human evolution advanced to the last stage at the earth: a possibility of transformation of the human essence – soul, spirit, or soul–heart–mind – into the being prepared for the eternity with God the Spirit.

For instance, Lord Jesus Christ forgave the woman taken in adultery and the woman who was "a sinner in the city" and who kissed His feet, washed them with her tears, wiped with the hairs of her head, and anointed them with the precious oil {*John 8:3–11; Luke 7:36–50*}. Yet, He said to the learned scribes and Pharisees {*Matthew 21:31–32; 12:34; 23:13–38; Mark 7:1–9*} that they maintain the appearance of righteousness and are as whitened graves, which appear as beautiful outwardly while inside they are full of dead bones and uncleanness: they are the hypocrites, "serpents, offspring of viper" who murder and crucify and persecute the messengers of God and prophets; they worship in vain teaching the doctrines of men, and the harlots (αι πορναι – sinners by body) go before them into the Kingdom of God.

Concerning Solomon and collapse of his kingdom, see ***The Vineyard and its Lessons***, and
The Rejected Knowledge and **The Earth without the Foundation** – ***reprints*** in **Note 54** and **56** to ***Selections_&_Reprints***

Σ12 Concerning philosophizing in temple, see ***Ancient Civilizations: Legacy Overview***

Σ13 See ***Philosophy: Aristotle*** – Folder ***Heathen Philosophy***, and *The Invincible Empire*, Chapter 4

Σ14 On March 12, 1938, three days after the Anschluss and after visiting Adolf Hitler, the archbishop of Vienna, Cardinal Theodor Innitzer directed the clergy and the faithful Catholics

– to unconditionally support "the great German state and the Führer" because "the Führer" has "the blessing of Providence" and it is the "divine idea" to realize the unity of all nations
– to encourage membership in the German Reich's youth organizations
– to "serve in the best way the good of the Reich, the nation, and the fatherland."

At the time when Cardinal Theodor Innitzer issued his directives, it was already possible to infer from the Nietzsche's writings, the Hitler's book and speeches, and the Nazi state laws and policies that the "divine idea" of realization of the "unity of all nations" includes

1/ subjugation and enslaving by the means of war and terror
↓
2/ appropriation of labor and resources of the conquered not–Aryan nations
↓
3/ termination of the weary human chattel or unneeded surplus of human beings

The reference to such a Future of mankind as to the "divine idea" might be consequence only of one of two things: either the Cardinal's deity–source of the "divine idea" is the pagan god of death (e.g., the Nietzsche's Dionysus or Manichean's second principle – the force of the arch–evil) or the Cardinal commits blasphemy against Christian God.

Furthermore, on March 18, 1938, the Austrian Episcopate granted the "heartiest blessing" to "the National–Socialist movement" in its struggle against "all–destroying atheistic bolshevism" and asserted as "a national duty" of "all believing Christians" to vote for "the German Reich" in a plebiscite on Anschluss [La Documentation Catholique ref. and qtd. in: Passelecq and Suchecky 51–52, 285].

Σ15 See ***Note 26*** to ***Selections_&_Reprints***

Σ16 **Concerning the heathenism:**

In general, the **heathenism** is actualization of the hatred of the arch–evil to mankind.

The core of the heathenism is death – idolatry; the essence of idolatry is worship to the arch–evil in the image of the serpent – mythical serpentine theology of the Orphics; however the essence – the arch–evil – might be covered with different images: different idols.

The heathenism is a collective name for a special body of knowledge that is based upon multi–deity theology, with such objects of worship as idols – deified beasts, snakes, insects, humans, astronomical objects, forces of nature, objects of nature – ocean, sea, rivers, trees, mountains, rocks, man–made stone, wooden, and clay statues, "graven images," human establishments – states, political parties, ideas, doctrines, and other images and hand–made material things – idols.

Making of images has two phases: work of the imagination as creation of thought, and work of hands when the invisible fruit of imagination – the created thought is materialized into visible perceivable material things: books, statues, figurines, idols – social, political, religious institutions, etc.

The first phase embraces the invisible work of imagination inside the mind when the mind assembles, modifies, and re–arranges the images of the surrounding material world. The imagination has only one source – the world of the matter, yet, with the knowledge of the world of the matter, the mind is able neither to comprehend nor to reflect the realm of God the Spirit. It means that the mind must not compose own image of God, because the knowledge it creates itself from the images of the material world is inadequate, therefore, false.

A human being was created in the image and after likeness of God; it means that the human mind is the perfect system–creating reality only when it is focused on God the Creator, and so, is tuned to the divine energy of creation and is acting/working with the wisdom–power given by the Holy Spirit; then, the human thought is an accomplished creation – system, which changes the surrounding world and influences existence of men.

When the mind creates the false image of God, it instantly distorts and disorders/modifies own essence – the core structures correlated with the meanings of truth, purposes, and values, which sustain existence of man and his world. The modified/distorted structures are incapable to perceive the divine energy of creation and to transform it into the life–sustaining energy form: the knowledge of life – own as well as the co–related beings, realities, and systems. The modification inevitably results in perversion and then, destruction, because incapacitated and modified/perverted with the false knowledge structures of the mind are incapable to sustain normal/natural existence of the mind and the body; consequently, the program of annihilation of a body is activated.

See also

– **Note 8** above

– **The Main Fruits of the Ancient Philosophical Thought: the Heathenism** – in ***Ancient Civilizations: Legacy Overview***

– **Notes 22, 41**, and **336** to ***Selections_&_Reprints***

– **Imagination**, **Idolatry**, **The Logic of Death**, **The Strange Knowledge**, **The True Vine**, and **The Authority to Survive** – ***reprints*** in **Notes 38**, **29**, **28**, **41**, and **22** to ***Selections_&_Reprints***

Σ17 Concerning Socrates, see **Note 4** to ***Philo of Alexandria,*** and ***Concept of Slavery*** – Supplement 1 to this file

Σ18 See **The Statecraft** – ***reprint*** follows

Reprint

"The Statecraft

…Blessed is the people of the Lord God.…

{Psalm 143(144):15}

David the king said: blessed is the people of the Lord God {*Psalm 143(144):15*}.

In the time of David, the people had the memory of the Law given through Moses and of the miracles that accompanied their exodus, starting with the deliverance from Egyptian slavery and finishing with the conquest of the Promised Land. The prophets still assisted the king's endeavors; moreover, David the king was told that through his Descendent, his kingdom would endure forever {*2 Kings 7:12–16*}.

Indeed, the kingdom of David became the first and the last kingdom of ancient Israel in which the people and their king had the fullness of protection and blessing of God.

However, David also established the core of evil – abuse of the authority by king {to whom Moses referred to as to the chosen of the brethren – *Deuteronomy 17:14–15*}.

David saw the women in a neighboring house of a soldier of the king's army, and he liked her. David the king took the woman and she became pregnant. David summoned the soldier in Jerusalem: David expected that his subject would cover the king's sin. Yet, the soldier did not come to his house, to his dishonored wife, although two evenings David spoke to him, and sent him to take rest in his house, and gave him food to eat before the king, and finally, made him drunk. Nonetheless, both nights the soldier slept near the king's doors, among the servants of David. So, David ordered to send the soldier to the most dangerous place of the battle and to leave him alone that he would be surely killed by the enemies with whom David waged the war.

David's actions can be construed as a substitution of the will of the mortal king for the Law of God {the sixth commandment – you shall not kill, and the tenth commandment – you shall not covet your neighbor's possession – *Exodus 20:13, 17*} and the intentional use of the king's authority and power of coercion with the purpose to inflict evil on the innocent man.

David's punishment was severe {*2 Kings 11:1–27; 12:1–12; 13:1–39; 14:25–27; 15:1–23; 16:11–22; 18:5–33; 19:1–7*}:

– his child died

– the sword never left the house of David and the evil out of his own house arose against him

– Abessalom, the most beloved son of David, arranged murder of Amnon, his brother (for the rape of Themar, his sister); then, he rebelled against his father, and usurped David's authority; he also took his father's women in the sight of all Israel.

Yet, all the suffering, with which David paid for his actions, did not erase the established precedent from the history, as well as did not resurrect the murdered man.

Solomon, son of David, received from God understanding to judge his people and knowledge, which still is not re–discovered by the contemporary science. He built the temple in which the people prayed God and their prayers were heard. During the Solomon's reign, the ancient kingdom of Israel reached its maximal strength, and the king's power, authority, and riches were greater than those of his contemporaries: it was the gold age of the history of Israel. Then, the strange thing happened: Solomon's heart turned away from God to the idols, although

God twice revealed His presence to Solomon
↓
God gave Solomon all he asked and much more than he asked
↓
God warned of a possibility of the destruction in the Future, if Solomon is not loyal to God
↓
initially, "wisdom" of Solomon exceeded "wisdom" of the surrounding nations, including Egypt
{*3 Kings 3:5–14; 9:1–9; 11:1–13, 26–40*}

What was the crucial point at which Solomon began his transformation into the one who did not keep the commandments and the ordinances of God and who God spared only because of His mercy, for the sake of David who was the servant of God, and for the sake of Jerusalem, the city chosen by God {*3 Kings 9:9–13*}? Could it be violations of the commandments and ordinances, which God gave through Moses, and which include, for instance, the following

– for all the people of Israel: by all means to keep the commandments, the definitions of righteousness and justice, and the ordinances of God; to chase all enemies out of the presence of the chosen people; to exterminate the plague of heathenism and idol–worship from the Promised Land; do not marry the heathens, and do not turn back to Egypt {*Exodus 34:11–16; Deuteronomy 6:17–19; 7:1–5; 12:1–2; 17:16; 20:16–18*}

– for a king: to prevent corruption {*Deuteronomy 17:15–17*}, which comes through

a/ multiplication of horses (in the time of Solomon, the plenty of horses not only secured the fastest transportation; it was a demonstration of wealth and authority, probably, similar to the personal supersonic jets in the Present)

b/ connections with Egypt for the sake of acquiring horses {seemingly, in the meaning of improper alliances with the Egyptians, from which God freed His chosen people, as well as with the heathen nations of the Promised Land – *Deuteronomy 6:12; 7:1–4*}

c/ multiplication of women

d/ exceedingly excessive multiplication of the riches?

Solomon violated the referred above commandments and ordinances of God, which are established for the prevention of corruption of kings: he took seven hundred wives and three hundred of concubines – women of the heathen nations, which were forbidden for the people of Israel; he married Egyptian woman, daughter of pharaoh, and he exceeded all other kings in riches. So, in his old age, the women turned away Solomon's heart after their idols. Moreover, Solomon built places of worship to the idols of the Moabites, Sidonians, etc., and sacrificed to those abominations. Solomon did that what was evil before God, and he went not after the Lord as David his father. Then, although Solomon knew that for his sin before God, his kingdom is to be divided, and ten parts of it would be given to Jeroboam his servant, Solomon attempted to murder the future king {*3 Kings 11:1–13, 26–40; 2 Chronicles 9:22–28*}. It looks like Solomon added to his idol–worship also the revolt against the will of God.

Explanation of the Solomon's actions cannot be found with the logic derived from the Law of God, because they are unreasonable: his state is built on the mercy of God and with understanding and riches granted by God, yet, by denying God, he destroys the very foundation on which his state is built.

However, the Solomon's actions are within the logical realm of the pattern of self–deification with such inseparable consequences as misjudgment, misinterpretation of own abilities, abuse of authority, erroneous purposes, and either non–admissible or ineffective actions. This pattern is common for all rulers who assume own absolute superiority over other beings, and therefore, rely excessively on the power of coercion and on the weaknesses and submissiveness as the natural features of the others.

In general, it might be concluded that

David the king established the core of destruction as admissibility for a king to violate the commandments of God
↓
Solomon the king, the son of David, developed this core into admissibility for a king to deny God,
even by turning to idol–worship

The consequent history of the ancient kingdom of David became mostly the history of idol–worship and decline with sporadic "return to God of our fathers" and attempts of some kings to renew the broken covenant with God and to restore the glory of the kingdom. As much as it could be inferred from the history, the irreversible collapse began in the time long before the Babylonian exile, because the Book of Jeremiah contains the indications of the advanced destruction {*Jeremiah 2:8; 43:1–31*}:

1/ the summary of processes, which are possible only if the heathenism takes the place of the knowledge of God: the priests did not speak for God, those held by the law did not know God, the prophets (in fact, diviners) prophesized by the idols

2/ the ruler's manifest defiance of God and His ordinances. For instance, Jeremiah the prophet sent to Joakim the king of Juda the book with the words of God that warned that the destruction is coming; therefore, the king and his servants should seek forgiveness of God and turn away from their evil. The ungodly king ordered to read the book (roll) by parts, then, he cut the part of the book (roll), which was read, and cast it in the fire until the entire book (roll) was gone in flames. By these actions, the king openly violated the ordinances of the kings given through Moses {*Deuteronomy 17:14–20*}:

the words of the Law had to be written down into the book for the king
who must keep it for all days of his life and learn the commandments of God
↓
the king must be the keeper and executor of the Law of God, so, his kingdom would be safe and prosperous

So, the ancient glory and prosperity of Israel became the memory of the Past.

The summary of the history of ancient kingdom of Israel is terrifying, yet, the lessons of the history are straightforward:

1/ the kings who had to serve God and to execute the will/Law of God, therefore, to rule the kingdom in peace, righteousness, and wisdom, became the enemies of God, who corrupt their subjects and ruin the kingdom bringing suffering, poverty, and death instead of well–being and prosperity

2/ the main condition of survival of the state and nation is loyalty and love to God

3/ the foundation of statecraft is the Law of God

4/ the first sign of the future collapse of the state and nation is deviation from the Law of God and ungodliness protected, propagated, or allowed by the state or its ruler(s).

…the essence of statecraft is establishment of the system for the literal execution of the Law of God – the system, which secures observance of the Law of God by the subjects of the state, and therefore, arranges the optimal conditions and terms for the people's growth, development, and perfection. Only in the state under protection of the Almighty Lord God, the people are safe, live in prosperity, and reach the highest perfection of human nature created in the image and likeness of the perfect God. Any governing system, which is not founded on the Law of God and which does not pursue the good of its subjects as it is defined by the Christian teachings, inevitably collapses. The history of mankind, and especially, the Western civilization, provides plentiful confirmations that

only in God are strength and wisdom and life and well–being of man
↓
only through wisdom granted by God all human institutions and establishments prosper

Many kingdoms, empires, states began and ended their existence after the ancient ungodly kings, who ruined the kingdom of David, came into oblivion; all of them have the same core of destruction; only details and time–range differ because of different time–space–complexity parameters (different lands, reserves, population, availability of resources, technical progress, possession of weapons, armies, etc.).

The core of destruction is **the heathenism** ***[[***see **Note 16** to this file***]]***, firstly, as an ability to admit existence of any other power besides the power of the Almighty God–Creator. The ability to admit existence of any other divine power inevitably produces the false gods–idols and culminates in idol–worship, whatever the idols could be – people, animals, celestial bodies, concepts, ideas, human establishments, etc.

The Aristotle's concept of "divine state" illustrates advancement of the heathenism, because the head of the state, by default, has to be deified in order to be suitable for management of the "living deity." The history of the totalitarian states of the twentieth century with their cults of state, political party, ruler's personality, etc., provides the vivid examples of that what the deified rulers bring to their subjects.

In the end of the road, is any difference among all the idols ever invented by the human mind? There is none, because all of them embody the same perversion: enmity and hatred to God. Consequently, collapse is the common destiny of the human establishments, which are not founded on the Law of God; the difference is only in time–range of existence and the scale of suffering inflicted on those under their authority. If so, is any meaning in all the efforts, shows, discussions, contests, competition, struggle for people's votes, and propaganda by which the politicians attempt to exalt themselves and to portray themselves as the experts in statecraft?..."

Original post in Folder Archive_2011, Page 3_June_July_2011

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Σ19 See cf.: in *Decrees of the Ecumenical Councils* 233–234; the law of the pope Innocent III, which legalized confiscation of property of heretics [e.g., Maycock 104], Thomas Aquinas' concept of unjust possession [*Summa Theologica* II–II Q.66 a8 ro2] and, for example, its application in Spain, where the faithful Catholics stripped the Jews and the Moors of their property [e.g., in: Willett 83].

Σ20 With the reference to the Augustine's expression "there is no possible source of evil except good" and Aristotle's assumption that an entirely evil thing or complete evil is self–destructive, Thomas Aquinas the Catholic saint and main theologian declares that although evil has only an "accidental cause," good is the cause or foundation of evil: evil is caused by good and supplements the image of God with such characteristics as *the source of unjust laws* and the *cause/source of evil* [*Summa Theologica* I Q.48 a2 ad3; Q.49 a1, a2, a3; Q.103 a7 ro1; I–II Q.18 a1 ad2 a3; Q. 93 a3 ro2, ro3; *Summa Contra Gentiles* III 4, 6, 7, 10, 11].

The summary of Aquinas' assertions based on references to the Augustine's discoveries (for instance, "there is no possible source of evil except good") and Aristotle's assumption that an entirely evil thing or complete evil is self–destructive [*Summa Theologica* I Q.48 a3; Q.49 a1 ro1, a2, a3; Q.103 a7; I–II Q. 93 a3 ro2, a4; III Q.6 a1 a; *Truth* Q.3. a4 ad7, ad8; Q.5 a2 r, ad4] is that

a/ although evil has only an "accidental cause," good is the cause or foundation of evil: evil is caused by good

b/ the unjust law of men is derived from the eternal Law of God; moreover, the evil can exist only in the good "as in its subject," and evil always is mixed with good: good is always foundation of evil, and evil should be reduced to "some good cause"

c/ as soon as the opposites ("contraries") exist on a "common ground," they have one common cause: while evil has only an "accidental cause," good is the cause/foundation of evil [*Summa Theologica* I Q.49 a1]. If according to Aristotle, the secondary cause does not exist without the essential or primary cause; for Aquinas, the causality becomes the hierarchy: the first cause → a cause (as the midway) → the last effect [*Summa Theologica* III Q.6 a1 a]

d/ ultimately, Aquinas directly names God "the author of the evil which is penalty" and implies the God's responsibility for corruption of things because, according to Aquinas, corruption is the accidental consequence of the order of the Universe. Then, he refers to the unity of the opposites – "contraries": as soon as "all contraries agree in something common," in particular, in the nature of being, contraries have "one first common cause" [*Summa Theologica* I Q.48 a3; Q.49 a1, a2, a3]

This is the Aquinas' conclusion: the good and the evil have one first common cause. Furthermore, if the Aquinas' god is the source of evil, it means that the nature of Aquinas' god originates, therefore, accommodates evil. Indeed, at the beginning of his *Treatise On God*, Aquinas declares that God is the same as His nature, as His essence, and as His being, God acts through His essence, and knows effect "by knowing His own essence" [*Summa Theologica* I Q.3 a3, a4; *Truth* Q.2 a3 ad3].

▣ It means that

1/ for Thomas Aquinas the Catholic saint and main theologian, the good is the subject of evil, and the Aquinas' god is the cause/source of two opposites – the good and the evil

2/ Aquinas follows the Manichean traditions of Augustine and continues heresy of Hermogenes who ***[[***similarly to Manichean doctrine***]]*** refers to God the Creator as to "the author of evil" and suggests that evil should be attributed to the will of God [Hermogenes ref. in: Tertullian *The Treatise against Hermogenes* 9:3; 10:1 38–39].

3/ whichever logical dancing around in circles Aquinas makes with all his Aristotelian tools, references to Augustine's works, and with standard praises to God, the essence of all his wordings comes to the assertion that God as the source of evil.

Such assertion would be a sacrilege even in the Plato's perfect Republic. Although Aquinas usually slavishly follows the pagan philosophers, in this case he discards the Plato's advice: if a ruler intends to arrange a perfect community, he must not allow voicing of the sacrilegious claim that god – the Absolute Good – might be responsible for "any instance of badness." Any claim on the connection of god and evil must neither be spoken nor be heard; any word and any work have to comply with the preliminary assumptions that god is good and that god is not responsible for any evil, because it is sacrilege to speak about responsibility of gods for any instance of evil [Plato *Republic* 380b–c].

It looks like the pagan philosopher has more reverence to God than the main theologian of the papal church of Rome does. Perhaps, Plato understands that to make God the source of evil means to destroy the very meaning of humanity and the very foundation for existence of men. Indeed, centuries later, the Aquinas' concept of the god–source of the evil – matured into the von Hartman's unconscious death–designer of evolution [von Hartmann 2:11–13, 15].

Although portrayal of God as the source of evil might be consisted with the ancient doctrine of unity and struggle of the opposites, yet, this portrayal is heretical and sacrilegious for the Christians.

Lord God Jesus Christ explained that the good and the bad do not come from the same source {*Matthew 7:15–20; Luke 6:43–45*}; from their fruits the one shall know them. The Christian theology does not admit existence of the opposites/contraries/evil in any reference to God: God is Light and there is no darkness in Him; He is the Light and Perfect Love without darkness, fear, and suffering – perfect God Who creates everything good, Who has mercy, forgiveness, and such love to His creations that He took on Himself the sins of the world, sanctified man with Own presence, and gave man salvation and eternal life {*John; 1 John*} [also, in: St. Gregory Palamas §34 in: *The Philokalia* 4:359].

Therefore, the assertion that God – the source of life and the Absolute Good – might be at the same time the source of the evil and death is blasphemy and utter heresy incompatible with the Christian teachings.

Therefore, for the Orthodox Christians, the Aquinas' theological "discovery" is not only the ultimate heresy; it is the unforgivable blasphemy, which makes the Aquinas' doctrine and its derivative – the papal faith/Catholicism – irreconcilable with the Christianity and unacceptable for the Christians.

Therefore, the Christian can make only two inferences from the referred Aquinas' texts:

1/ the Aquinas' god is the source of two opposites – the good and the evil and the Aquinas' god is not God of the Christians

2/ for the Christians, the Aquinas' speculations, covered with the wordings from the Holy Scriptures, are blasphemy against God and heresy incompatible with the Christian dogma.

See also
— ***Doctrine of Thomas Aquinas*** in Folder ***Heathen Philosophy***
— **Concept of evil** – in **The Logic of Death**, ***reprint*** in **Note 28** to ***Selections_&_Reprints***
— *The Invincible Empire,* Chapters 5– 8.

Σ21 See Imagination – ***reprint*** in **Note 38** to ***Selections_&_Reprints***

Σ22 The essence of the Christian Faith according to ***The Nicean Creed***:

"The Nicean Creed:

I believe in one God, the Father, Almighty, Creator of Heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible.
And in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of God, begotten of the Father before all ages.
Light of light, true God of true God, begotten not created, of one essence with the Father, through Whom all things were made.
For us and for our salvation, He came down from heaven and was incarnated by the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became man.
Crucified for us under Pontius Pilate, and He suffered and was buried, and on the third day He rose according to the Scriptures.
He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
And He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead. His kingdom will have no end.
And in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the Giver of life, Who proceeds from the Father,
Who together with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, Who spoke through the prophets.
In one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church.
I acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins.
I expect the resurrection of the dead. And the life of the age to come, Amen."

The Creed or *The Nicean Creed* was composed in 325, by The First Ecumenical Council of Nicea. According to decision of the Council in Chalcedon (in 451), *The Nicean Creed* is acknowledged as sufficient for "a perfect understanding and establishment of religion." The Councils stated that he teachings about the Holy Trinity is compete because "the Fathers of Church" made the clarification about the Holy Spirit with the Scriptures; therefore, *The Creed* must "remain inviolate."

Hence,

1/ Council of Ephesus (431), Chalcedon (451) and the Fourth Council of Constantinople (the Eighth Ecumenical Council; 869–870) established *The Nicean Creed* as the main universal and constant symbol–Confession of the Christian Faith and condemned as the heretics those who compose, promulgate, teach another creed, or make either any addition to or any subtraction from *The Nicean Creed*

2/ the Second Council of Nicea (787) ordered that for those with the "priestly dignity" the regulations of the sacred canons of the Ecumenical Synods (that is Ecumenical Councils) must "remain unshakeable and immoveable," because they are enlightened by the Spirit of God [*Decrees of the Ecumenical Councils*, 24, 65, 83, 84, 87, and further].

Hence, *The Nicean Creed* was accepted by the ancient Christian Church as the permanent unchangeable confession of the Christian Faith, which cannot be altered until the Christian Church exists:

***The Nicean Creed* cannot be changed –**
not by any Church's authority
nor by any cleric
nor by any layman
nor by anyone who identifies himself as a Christian

For an attempt to compose, write, or produce another creed – that is for any change, addition, or discarding any word of *The Nicean Creed*, bishops and clerics should be deposed and monks and laymen should be anathematized ***[[***"anathematized" means excluded from the Christian church and from community of the Christians***]]***: they are heretics – the ones who do not confess the true essence of the Christian Faith and who, therefore, are not Christians.

See ***CHRISTIANITY***

Σ23 For instance, according to Aquinas, the Roman pope has the sole authority to "publish a new edition" of ***The Creed***, as well as to decide all other matters of the whole – universal – Church, because he has the authority to summon a general council and confirm its decisions [*Summa Theologica* II–II Q.1 a10 o2, a, ro2].

Such assertion coincides with the canon law, which elevates the pope's right over the councils at the level of *iuris divinum* (the divine authority). Yet, some researchers maintain that the papacy strengthened own authority and justified the right to convoke councils and to confirm their decisions with the Pseudo–Isidorian Decretals (or "the Forged Decretals") held to be false or "forged" [e.g., *Documents of the Christian Church* 103; Küng (1982) 289; La Due 84–86]; in such a case, the papal *iuris divinum* has the very worldly source of origin.

Concerning the prohibition of the Ecumenical Councils to modify ***The Nicean Creed*** (Council of Ephesus in 431, and Council of Chalcedon in 451) Aquinas explained that the prohibition "was intended for private individuals, who have no business to decide matters of faith" [*Summa Theologica* II–II Q.1 a10 o2, ro2].

In fact, when both Councils declared that the teaching of the Church about the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit is complete and ***The Nicean Creed*** is unerring, they specifically addressed their prohibition: for an attempt to compose, write, or produce another creed, bishops and clerics should be deposed and monks and laymen should be anathematized (excommunicated) [*Decrees of Ecumenical Councils* 65, 83, 84, 87].

▣ So, it looks like a Dominican monk and papal saint Thomas Aquinas contradicts the Ecumenical Councils and misinterprets their decrees.

The Ecumenical Councils represent the whole – Universal (Catholic) Apostolic Christian – Church, where the Church of Rome is one of the many Episcopates of the Christian World, and only they – the Ecumenical Councils – have the right to speak on behalf of the whole Christendom. Thus, the Aquinas' misrepresentation reveals the peculiar attitude toward Christianity: in his service to the papacy Aquinas disregards even the Universal Christian Church, whose decisions her humble servant – the Bishop of Rome/Roman pope – should obediently execute not amend.

Aquinas had to modify the decrees of the Ecumenical Councils because he had two objectives:

1/ to present as the lawful act consistent with the authority of the Roman pope the amendment of ***The Nicean Creed*** committed by the Bishop of Rome – the pope Benedict VII, for which he, according to the decision of the Ecumenical Councils, had to be deposed from the episcopacy

2/ to prove the supremacy of the Bishop of Rome/Roman pope over the Ecumenical Councils, therefore over the Universal Christian Church, while the supremacy over the Universal Christian Church belongs only to Lord God Jesus Christ {*Colossians 1:12–20; 2:2–3, 8–9; Ephesians 5:23–24*}

Even the Councils, which represented only the local Churches under jurisdiction of the papal church of Rome, challenged the Aquinas' version of the absolute papal authority.

For instance, the Council of Constance (1414–1418) declared that the General Council draws its power "immediately from Christ," and the popes must obey the Council's decisions; the Council also deposed two "Supreme Pontiffs":

– in 1414, the pope John XXIII – "evil administrator" who scandalized the Church with "dishonest life and morals"

– in 1417, the pope Benedict XIII – "a perjurer" and heretic who fostered schism, "persecuted and disturbed" the Church and the people [*Decrees of the Ecumenical Councils* 409, 417, 437].

Consequently, the Council of Basel–Ferrara–Florence–Rome (1431–1445) promulgated the permanent validity of the authority of the General Councils with the threat to suspend or even deprive of authority any pope who would violate the decree concerning the status of the Council [*Decrees of the Ecumenical Councils* 466].

To repair the damage inflicted to the concept of the absolute power of the pope, Tomas de Torquemada ***[[***1420–1498; the Grand Inquisitor of Spain, who burned at the stake about 2,000 people***]]*** offered another interpretation of the authority of the Council over the pope: Council does not depose the pope as a heretic or schismatic; it declares that the pope is not the pope because he "fell openly into heresy and remains hardened and obstinate in heresy" [Tomas de Torquemada ref. and qtd. in: Küng (1982) 273]. This modification means that the Council has no power over the pope: it might deprive of the papal authority only those recognized as heretics who usurped the papal authority; thus, the Grand Inquisitor corrected the papal Council, and restored the status of the pope as untouchable.

Σ24 In 1302, the pope Boniface VIII made two statements *[The Bull Unam Sanctam, 1302,* in*: Documents of the Christian Church 127]:*

1/ the papal authority is divine

2/ for the sake of eternal salvation it is necessary "for every human creature to be subject to the Roman Pontiff."

Then, in 1943, the pope Pius XII continued:

1/ primacy of jurisdiction gives the church as "a Mystical Body two heads." "One chief head of this Body, namely Christ" Who "in a certain sense lives in the Church" guides the church invisibly, and also visibly, through "His representative on earth." "That Christ and His Vicar constitute one only Head" and "Peter" (*St. Peter the Apostle*) is "the visible foundation stone." Taking away "the visible head" – the pope – leaves "the Mystical Body of Redeemer so obscured and so maimed" that eternal salvation can be neither seen nor found [w7, §40–41, §53]

2/ Christ and His Vicar constitute one only Head is the solemn teaching of Our predecessor of immortal memory Boniface VIII in the Apostolic Letter *Unam Sanctam"* (Christ as invisible head, and the pope – "Vicar of Christ" as the visible head)

3/ it is the dangerous error to believe that it is possible to accept Christ "as the Head of the Church, while not adhering loyally to His Vicar on Earth." Those who take away the visible head (that is the pope) can neither see the eternal salvation nor find it [w7, §40–41]*;* also [ref. and qtd. in*: Church, Papacy, and Schism: A Theological Enquiry* by Philip Sherrard*.* London*:* SPCK*,* 1978. 60].

It means that eternal salvation of men had been separated from the acceptance of Lord Jesus Christ as the Savior and God, from fulfillment of the God's commandments, and from the mercy of God. The popes asserted themselves as the unavoidable supplements to God, as a new deity, perhaps even more authoritative than God Himself, because faith and loyalty to God are sufficient no more: the absolute submission and "loyalty" to the pope became the conditions of eternal life. With such dethronement of God, idolization of the pope is logically complete.

Furthermore, the pope declares that it cannot be "real opposition or conflict between the invisible mission of the Holy Spirit and the juridical commission of Ruler and Teacher received from Christ," and ascribing "the whole spiritual life of Christians and their progress in virtue exclusively to the action of the Divine Spirit," without the collaboration of the pope, leads to "deplorable ruin" [w7, §65, 87].

Seemingly, the pope assert that, without collaboration of the pope, the Holy Spirit does not work.

The portrayal of the church as two–headed body would definitely fit the Orphic serpentine theology, and "primacy of jurisdiction" is the definition applied in the worldly affairs; nevertheless, none of human "jurisdictions" as well as any of human affairs, is able to define the status of God, attach man to God, or make a man into "one head with God."

Concerning deification of pope, see ***Doctrine of Thomas Aquinas***, in Folder ***Heathen Philosophy***, postings in Folder ***Political Theology***, and *The Invincible Empire*, Chapters 6 and 7.

Σ25 See ***Ecumenism***

Σ26 See **The Focus** and **The Shift** – ***reprints*** in **Note 2** to ***Selections_&_Reprints***

Σ27 Concerning papal crusade of 1204, when papal subjects – the Catholics ruined Constantinople, which was the capital of the Byzantine Empire, desecrated, pillaged and destroyed Christian temples, robbed and murdered Christians, even raped women and children on the altars of the Christian temples, see

Runciman, Steven. *The Eastern Schism: A Study of the Papacy and the Eastern Churches During the XIth and XIIth Centuries.* Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1955. New York: AMS, 1983 (reprint).

The Great Schism and Origin of the Papal Church of Rome in ***The Hierarchical Church*** – Folder ***Political Theology***

The Invincible Empire, Chapter 7

Σ28 See ***The Discernment***

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