

THOMAS AQUINAS ON THE METAPHYSICS OF THE HUMAN ACT

This book offers a novel account of Aquinas's theory of the human act. It argues that Aquinas takes a human act to be a composite of two power-exercises, where one relates to the other as form to matter. The formal component is an act of the will, and the material component is a power-exercise caused by the will, which Aquinas refers to as the "commanded act." The book also argues that Aquinas conceptualizes the act of free choice as a hylomorphic composite: it is, materially, an act of the will, but it inherits a form from reason. As the book aims to show, the core idea of Aquinas's hylomorphic action theory is that the exercise of one power can structure the exercise of another power, and this provides a helpful way to think of the presence of cognition in conation and of intention in bodily movement.

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*Centre for Advanced Studies in the Humanities "Human Abilities,"
Humboldt-Universität, Berlin*



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Abbreviations

Aquinas

Comp. Theol.	<i>Compendium theologiae</i> (Leon. 42)
De 36 art.	<i>Responsio de 36 articulis</i> (Leon. 42)
De Ver.	<i>Quaestiones disputatae de veritate</i> (Leon. 22)
De Virt.	<i>Quaestiones disputatae de virtutibus</i>
DEE	<i>De ente et essentia</i> (Leon. 43)
DM	<i>Quaestiones disputatae de malo</i> (Leon. 23)
DPN	<i>De principiis naturae</i> (Leon. 43)
DSC	<i>De spiritualibus creaturis</i> (Leon. 24, 2)
In DA	<i>Sententia libri De anima</i> (Leon. 45, 1)
In DC	<i>Sententia super librum De caelo et mundo</i> (Leon. 3)
In De Caus.	<i>Super Librum de causis</i>
In De Trin.	<i>Super Boetium De trinitate</i> (Leon. 50)
In Div. Nom.	<i>Super librum Dionysii De divinis nominibus</i>
In DSS	<i>Sententia libri De sensu et sensato</i> (Leon. 45, 2)
In Eth.	<i>Sententia libri Ethicorum</i> (Leon. 47, 1–2)
In Met.	<i>Sententia super Metaphysicam</i>
In Periherm.	<i>Expositio libri Peryermeneias. Editio altera retractata</i> (Leon. 1*1)
In Phys.	<i>Sententia super Physicam</i> (Leon. 2)
In Pol.	<i>Sententia libri Politicorum</i> (Leon. 48)
In Sent.	<i>Scriptum super libros Sententiarum</i>
Leon.	<i>Sancti Thomae Aquinatis opera omnia iussu impensaque</i> <i>Leonis XIII P.M., cura et studio fratrum praedicatorum</i> (Rome: Ex Typographia Polyglotta S. C. de Propaganda Fide, 1882–)
QDA	<i>Quaestiones disputatae de anima</i> (Leon. 24, 1)
QDP	<i>Quaestiones disputatae de potentia Dei</i>
Quodl. IX	<i>Quodlibet 9</i> (Leon. 25, 1)

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List of Abbreviations

SCG

Summa contra gentiles (Leon. 13–15)

ST

Summa theologiae (Leon. 4–12) (I, first part of ST; I-II, first part of the second part; II-II, second part of the second part; III, third part)**Aristotle**DA *On the Soul*EN *Nicomachean Ethics*Met. *Metaphysics*Phys. *Physics*