

# FREE WILL AND THE REBEL ANGELS IN MEDIEVAL PHILOSOPHY

In this book Tobias Hoffmann studies the medieval free will debate during its liveliest period, from the 1220s to the 1320s, and clarifies its background in Aristotle, Augustine, and earlier medieval thinkers. Among the wide range of authors he examines are not only well-known thinkers such as Thomas Aquinas, Duns Scotus, and William of Ockham, but also a number of authors who were just as important in their time and deserve to be rediscovered today. To shed further light on their theories of free will, Hoffmann also explores their competing philosophical explanations of the fall of the angels, that is, the hypothesis of an evil choice made by rational beings under optimal psychological conditions. As he shows, this test case imposed limits on tracing free choices to cognition. His book provides a comprehensive account of a debate that was central to medieval philosophy and continues to occupy philosophers today.

TOBIAS HOFFMANN is Professor of Philosophy at the Catholic University of America. He has published widely on medieval thinkers including Albert the Great, Thomas Aquinas, Henry of Ghent, and Duns Scotus, and he is the editor of *Weakness of Will from Plato to the Present* (2008), *A Companion to Angels in Medieval Philosophy* (2012), and co-editor (with Jörn Müller and Matthias Perkams) of *Aquinas and the Nicomachean Ethics* (Cambridge University Press, 2013).



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The Catholic University of America





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For Bonnie Kent



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I wish to dedicate the book to Bonnie Kent, in gratitude for her innovative work in medieval theories of moral psychology and ethics and for the selfless support she has given me since I have come to North America.



### Abbreviations

#### Book Series and Editions

CCCM	Corpus Christianorum Continuatio Mediaevalis
CCSL	Corpus Christianorum Series Latina
CSEL	Corpus Scriptorum Ecclesiasticorum Latinorum
NR	John Duns Scotus (2007), Quodlibet q. 16, ed. Noone and
	Roberts
OPh	Opera philosophica (of Duns Scotus or William of Ockham)
OTh	Opera theologica (of William of Ockham)
PhB	Les Philosophes Belges
PL	Patrologia Latina
Viv.	Vivès edition (of Duns Scotus)
WB	John Duns Scotus (2004–8), Reportatio I-A, ed. Wolter and
	Bychkov

#### Aristotle

An.	De anima
EN	Ethica Nicomachea
GC	De generatione et corruptione
Int.	De interpretatione
Met.	Metaphysica
Phys.	Physica

De ciuitate Dei

#### Augustine

conf.	Confessiones
corrept.	De correptione et gratia
c. Iul.	Contra Iulianum

ciu.

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c. Iul. imp. Contra Iulianum opus imperfectum

ench. Enchiridion ad Laurentium de fide spe et caritate

en. Ps. Enarrationes in Psalmos Gn. litt. De Genesi ad litteram lib. arh. De libero arbitrio

mor. De moribus ecclesiae catholicae et de moribus Manichaeorum

nat. b. De natura boni

nupt. et conc. De nuptiis et concupiscentia perf. iust. De perfectione iustitiae hominis

retr. Retractationes uera rel. De uera religione

#### Works by Other Authors

DCD De casu diaboli
DDN De divinis nominibus

DM Quaestiones disputatae de malo

DNCC De necessitate et contingentia causarum

DSS De substantiis separatis

DV Quaestiones disputatae de veritate

Expos. . . . (e.g., in libros Physicorum Aristotelis)
In . . . (e.g., In DDN, In Sent., In Met.)

Lect. Lectura Ord. Ordinatio

Praedest. Tractatus de praedestinatione et de praescientia divina

QD Quaestio(nes) disputata(e) QO Quaestiones ordinariae QV Quaestiones variae

Q... Quaestiones in ... (e.g., QMet, Quaestiones in Metaphysicam

Aristotelis)

Quodl. Quodlibet Rep. Reportatio SA Summa aurea

SCG Summa contra Gentiles

Sent. Sententiae

ST Summa theologiae

I-II Prima secundae (First part of the Second part)
II-II Secunda secundae (Second part of the Second part)



#### List of Abbreviations

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#### Other Abbreviations

a. articulus arg. (in opp.) argumentu

arg. (in opp.) argumentum (in oppositum) c. corpus articuli (e.g., 6.7c.)

concl. conclusio
intr. introductio
q. quaestio
qc. quaestiuncula
s.c. sed contra
sol. solutio

#### Manuscripts

A Paris, Bibliothèque nationale de France, lat. 14565
Fb Firenze, Biblioteca Nazionale Centrale, Conv. Soppr.
A.III.120

Nürnberg, Stadtbibliothek, Cent. III, 75

P Paris, Bibliothèque nationale de France, lat. 15372



#### Citation Method

Ancient and medieval texts are cited according to their internal divisions (such as Book–Chapter, or Book–Distinction–Question–Article), marking the subdivisions by periods. When useful, references to printed editions (which are listed in the Bibliography) are given by volume numbers (in Roman numerals), page numbers, and line numbers. For example, Bonaventure, *In Sent.* II.3.2.1.2 ad 2, II: 117a refers to Book II of his *Sentences* commentary, Distinction 3, Part 2, Article 1, Question 2, response to the second opening argument, *Opera omnia*, volume II, page 117, left column. When not otherwise specified, Albert the Great is cited according to the Editio Coloniensis (1951–), Thomas Aquinas according to the Editio Leonina (1882–), Henry of Ghent according to the *Opera omnia* (1979–), and Duns Scotus according to the Editio Vaticana (1950–). *Quodlibeta* by Henry of Ghent cited without Roman numerals are cited according to the edition by Badius, 1518.

When multiple references are indicated, they are listed in chronological order. Because of space constraints, quotations in the footnotes had to be kept to a minimum.

All translations are my own.