104 Study or To Learn (*Disciplina uel discere*)

Man ought to learn six lessons[[1]](#endnote-1) to this end which will arrive at perfection.

First is the rooting out of evils. Just as one who must engage in a duel learns first to fight, Judges 3[:2]: “The children of Israel might learn to fight with their enemies, and to be trained up to war.” But, alas, because in Ezech. 19[:6]: “He went up and down among the lions and became a lion: and he learned to catch the prey.”

¶ The second lesson is the changing of goods, just as a painter or writer learns to change things greatly, Jer. 12[:16]: “If they will be taught and will learn the ways of my people … they shall be built up in the midst of my people.” And Prov. 24[:32]: “By the example I received instruction.”

¶ The third lesson is concerning every love, just as a cook learns the taste of foods by sampling. But there is nothing sweeter than love, [1] Cor. 4[:6]: “In us you may learn, that one be not puffed up against the other.”

¶ The fourth lesson concerning compassion and rendering of aid for the needy, just as a man by experiencing learns a matter, Heb. 5[:8]: “He learned obedience by the things which he suffered.” Isai. 1[:17]: “Learn to do well … relieve the oppressed.”

¶ The fifth lesson is concerning fearing God and obedience to his commandments. Just as a novice in the beginning of his conversion learns the statutes and his rule, Deut. 4[:10]: “Call together the people to me, that they may hear my words, and may learn to fear me all the time.”

¶ The sixth lesson concerns the heart, humility, and honesty of habits. Just as a chick at the nodding of her parent learns to go about, Matt. 11[:29]: “Learn of me, because I am meek.”

¶ The seventh lesson concerns the truth of salutary wisdom. Just as a cleric learns what is useful for himself, Wis. 7[:13]: “Which I have learned without guile and communicate without envy.” Et Eccli. 6[:33]: “My son, if you will attend to me, you shall learn.”

1. The author promises six lessons but delivers seven. [↑](#endnote-ref-1)