17 Corner (*Angulus*)

According to Bernard,[[1]](#endnote-1) where there is a corner there is uncleanness. Thus, it is in corners, among men and conspirators who withdraw themselves from the midst of the community in which there is power, Prov. 7[:10-12], it is described there, “And behold a foolish woman…now lying in wait near the corners.”

For just as it is evident to the sense, an old woman who cannot catch an animal running about in the middle of an open space, (when) she corners it in (she catches it), and thus the devil captures. Wherefore, Apo. 19[:20], it is said concerning the devil that he seduces the inhabitants over the four corners of the earth. And therefore, just as it is read in 1 Kings 14[:38], King Saul when the Lord did not descend to him, knowing that this was so because of the sin of the people, and we see through whom this sin happened. And because Christ came to destroy sin, he was made the corner stone, just as the cross is accustomed to have been set up in corners lest men hang about there, but the devil (does so) on the other hand.

Wherefore in figure, it is read 2 Paral. 26[:15], that king Ozias “made in Jerusalem engines of diverse kinds, which he placed in the towers, and in the corners of the walls, to shoot arrows, and great stones.” Wherefore, and in the figure of logic, from the corners arises contradiction, so spiritually among the corners a quarrel and a contradiction arise for men.

1. Bernard, *De diligendo Dei* 12.34 (PL 182.995): Porro ubi proprietas, ibi singularitas, ibi angulus: ubi vero angulus, ibi sine dubio sordes sive rubigo. Sit itaque servo sua lex, timor ipse quo constringitur; sit sua mercenario cupiditas, qua et ipse arctatur, quando tentatur abstractus et illectus. Sed harum nulla, aut sine macula est, aut animas convertere potest. [↑](#endnote-ref-1)