125 Constructing (*Edificacio*)

Constructing is found to be triple: earthly, spiritual, and celestial.

Earthly is one and transitory and therefore little valued, Eccle. [2:4, 11]: “I built me houses, and planted vineyards.” and it follows, “I saw in all things vanity.” Mark 13[:2]: “See all these great buildings? There shall not be left a stone upon a stone, that shall not be thrown down.” In this construction man ought to beware of a triple injury.

And first, from injury of God, just as a servant ought not to make a lord against the Lord, which the idolaters do, Osee 8[:14]: “Israel has forgotten its maker and has built temples.” Thus Solomon built temples for the idols of his concubines, namely, and worshipped them, 3 Kings 11[:7].

¶ Second, man ought to beware of injury of his neighbor because it is not agreeable to build for another, but rather Eccli. 21[:9]: “He that builds his house at other men's charges, is as he that gathers stones to build in the winter.”

Third, man ought to beware of injury of his own discerning, for, he makes a sword for his own slaughter, Mich. 3[:10]: “Woe, you that build up Sion with blood.” These are the superiors who evilly confer benefices, Dan. 4[:27]: “Is not this the great Babylon, which I have built.”

Secondly, spiritual construction is stable and fruitful. Therefore it is to be loved and these ought to be extended in a triple manner.

¶ First, to that which is above, that is, to God. First, through faith which is to be begun first by truth, just as the foundation of the edifice, Matt. 7[:24]: “Everyone therefore that hears my words, and does them, shall be likened to a wise man that built his house upon a rock.”

Second, through hope that he may erect the edifice, such as walls reaching on high, Eph. 2[:19]: “Now therefore you are no more strangers,” and it follows, “Built upon the foundation of the apostles.”

¶ Third, through charity which perfects all just like the whole, Eph. 4[:16]: “From whom the whole body, being compacted and fitly joined together, by what every joint supplies, according to the operation in the measure of every part, makes increase of the body, unto the edifying of itself in charity.”

Again 1 Cor. 8[:1]: “Knowledge puffs up; but charity edifies.” But concerning all these things, 1 Cor. 3[:11]: “Other foundation no man can lay, but that which is laid.”

Second, the edifice is extended to that which is next to it, that is, one’s neighbor and these are three. First, by a healthful word of preaching, Jer. 1[:9-10]: “Behold I have given my words in your mouth: Lo, I have set you this day over the nations, and over the kingdoms, to root up,” the habit of sinning, “and pull down,” the act of sin, “and to waste,” the circumstances, “and to destroy,” the occasions, “and to build,” faith, “and to plant,” customs.

Secondly by the example of honest conversation as exhibited on the mountain, Exod. [3:1]. Rom. 15[:2]: “Let every one of you please his neighbor unto good, to edification,” namely, of the faithful.

Third, by the study of peace and love just as the walls are joined together with cement, Rom. 14[:19]: “Let us follow after the things that are of peace; and keep the things that are of edification.” 1 Thes. 5[:11]: “Comfort one another; and edify one another.” But also what “One builds up, and another pulls down: what profit have they but the labor?” Eccli. 34[:28].

¶ Third, a building ought to be extended toward that which is below, that is, to man himself and this in a triple manner. First, through penance which checks harmful things, thus building something humped back in the timber and stones, Prov. 24[:27]: “Diligently till your ground: that afterward you may build your house.” Job 22[:23]: “If you will return to the Almighty, you shall be built up,” etc.

Second, through wisdom which regulates work, Prov. 24[:3]: “By wisdom the house shall be built, and by prudence it shall be strengthened.”

Third, through justice which performs the due works, Eccli. 3[:17]: “In justice you shall be built up” Lord, namely, of conscience.

Third, the building of heaven is perpetual and grand. Therefore, for acquiring.

¶ First, because of the fruitfulness of all good things, Psal. [121:1, 3]: “I rejoiced at the things,” etc., and it follows “which is compact together.” As if in this God, one has a sufficiency.

Second, because of an amenable habitation, Tob. 13[:20]: “Happy shall I be if there shall remain of my seed, to see the glory of Jerusalem.”

Third, on account of the charity of society, Prov. 9[:1]: “Wisdom has built herself a house,” namely, the empirium of heaven, “she has hewn her out seven pillars,” namely the ivory of virgins, the cedar of confessors, the iron of martyrs, the gold of the apostles, the silver of the prophets, marble of the patriarchs, the fire of the angels.

Fourth, on account of the joyfulness of perfection, Jer. 31[:4]: “I will build you again, O virgin of Israel: you shall again be adorned with your timbrels,” etc.

Fifth, on account of the perpetual security of preachers, 2 Cor. 5[:1]: “For we know, if our earthly house of this habitation be dissolved, that we have a building of God, a house not made with hands, eternal in heaven.”