241 Change, Mutation (*Mutare, Mutacio*)

Note here that change does not fall from God, according to that of Mal. 3[:6]: “I am the Lord, and I change not.” But to create requires change, Psal. [102:27]: “As a vesture you shall change them, and they shall be changed.” However, the evil and the good are changed, but the evil in three ways. Because they are changed evilly, worse, and the worst. For some are changed from good into evil, just as an angel was changed into a devil, a freeman into a slave, a healthy person into one sick, Lam. 4[:1]: “How is the gold become dim, the finest color is changed.” Rom. 1[:23]: “And they changed the truth of God into” a lie and even “the likeness of beasts.” For sometimes the likeness of God is changed, that is, man into a lion by cruelty and pride, into a wolf by deceit and envy, into a spider by impatience and anger, into a mole by cupidity and avarice, into a tortoise by sloth, into a stud horse by lust, into flesh or a pig through gluttony, Dan. 4[:13]: “Let seven times pass over you.”

Others are changed from evil into worse as the little ass into a donkey, the ripe into rottenness, Eccli. 27[:12]: “A holy man continues in wisdom as the sun: but a fool is changed as the moon.” Because now one is corrupted by anger, now one full by gluttony, now the diminished through lust, now the eclipsed by avarice.

Others are changed from worse into the worst like the sick into the dead, evening into night, the imprisoned into the hanged, Osee 4[:7]: “I will change their glory into shame.”

By another way is the commendable change and the sought for which is of the good and this is triple: good, better, and best. For some are changed from evil into good like a tempest into fair weather, the sinner into a penitent, Eccli. 18[:26]: “From the morning until the evening the time shall be changed.” So, Saul was changed into Paul, Eccle. 8[:1]: “The most mighty will change his face.” Gen. 35[:2]: “Be cleansed and change your garments.”

Again, Gen. 41[:14]: “Joseph was brought out of the prison and changed his apparel.” Others are changed from good into better, such as morning into day, 1 Kings 10[:6] of the Lord is of Saul, “You shall be changed into another man.” And the blessed prophet, Isai. 40[:31]: “They that hope in the Lord shall renew their strength.”

Others from better into the best as ashes into glass, flower into fruit, 1 Cor. 15[:51]: “We shall all indeed rise again: but we shall not all be changed.” Job 14[:14]: “I expect until my change come.” Psal. [76:11]: “This is the change of the right hand of the Highest.”