Worcester F 80 Distinctiones

154 Change does not fall (*Mutacio non cadit*)

Change does not fall from God, according to that of Mal. 3[:6]: “I am the Lord, and I change not.” But change fits a creature, according to that of Psal. [102:27]: “As a vesture you shall change them, and they shall be changed.”

¶ However, the good and the evil are changed, but the evil in three ways. Because they are changed from evil, to worse, and the worst. For some are changed from good into evil, just as an angel 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 God into the likeness of beasts.” For sometimes the image of God is changed, that is, man into a lion by cruelty and pride, into a fox 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 sick into feeble, the wound into putrefaction, 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 one is diminished through lust, now one is eclipsed by earthly 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

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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, 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, the bee from flower into flower. [1 Kings 10:6] It was said to Saul, “You shall be changed into another man.” And you will prophesize, 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 comes.” Psal. [76:11]: “This is the change of the right hand of the Highest.”