Worcester F 80 Distinctiones

264 Clothing (*Vestis*)

Clothing. In clothing it is needed that it be clean. This happens through continence and penance, Eccle. 9[:8]: “At all times let your garments be white.” And Lev. 13[:6]: “And the man shall wash his clothes,” that is, his works through penance, “and shall be clean.” Apo. 3[:4]: “Which have not defiled their garments.”

¶ Second, that it be warm, and this is through charity otherwise it is of little value to the body. Thus, neither is there chastity without charity, Job 37[:17]: “Are not your garments hot,

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when the south wind blows upon the earth,” that is, fervent works when the soul is heated by grace. Therefore, charity is called the nuptial clothing, because just as without clothing it is base for a man, and not beautiful, so neither is clothing beautiful without charity.

¶ Third, that it be large through injustice by covering, namely, all the members, that is, by giving to each what is his, Apo. 1[:12-13]: “I saw, one like to the Son of man, clothed with a garment down to the feet.” Which is clothing reaching to the ankles, Act. 12[:8]: “Cast your garment about you and follow me.” But some are not covered except to the loins. In the sign of which it is said, 2 Kings 10[:4] that “Hanon cut away half of their garments,” of the servants of David, “even to the buttocks.”

¶ Again, it is required that clothing be colored by beauty. But Eccli. 27[:12] it is said, “A fool is changed as the moon.” So, our people now are horned with hoods, sleeves, and long tight tunics, but in the Psal. [74:11] it is said, “I will break the horns of sinners.” And Sopho. 1[:8] it is said, “I will visit upon all such as are clothed with strange apparel.”

¶ Fourth that it be whole, strong, and long lasting, Deut. 29[:5]: “Forty years through the desert, the garments,” of the children of Israel, “are not worn out,” that is, in the state of religion or penitence. Apo. 16[:15]: “Blessed is he that keeps his garments, lest he walk naked.” But alas because on the other hand some are clothed with the old clothing of pride and these properly are the garments of the devil, because Eccli. 13[:1]: “He that has fellowship with the proud, shall put on pride.” Jos. 9[:5] the Gabaonites entered clothed with “old garments upon them.” Therefore, in Eccli. 11[:4]: “Glory not in apparel at any time,” as the peacock in his tail, “and be not exalted in the day of your honor.” The example of Herod of Egypt, Act. 12[:21].

¶ Again, some are clothed with clothing diseased of lust, which first infects the heart, afterwards the tongue, then the whole body. Fourth the neighbors, Lev. 13[:56], clothing which had leprosy shall be burned in the flame, these are clothed with the skins of emissaries.

¶ Again, some are dressed with divided clothing of discord and wrath, they are clothed with the skins of dogs by biting and detraction, Lev. 19[:19]: “You shall not wear a garment that is woven of two sorts,” that is, you shall not send those who make themselves that they cherish

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parts, and thus they disturb others or who make for themselves divided clothes from the wolf and the lamb. Because from one part they take off through rape or usury and from the other part they give alms, taking off the shoe from one foot, and sometimes putting the shoe on the other foot.

¶ Again, some are with garments gnawed with moths of envy and avarice. These put on the skins of foxes through trickery and deception, James 5[:1-2]: “Go to now, you rich men,” etc., and it follows “your garments are motheaten.” Concerning all these it is said in Sopho. 1[:8]: “I will visit upon all such as are clothed with strange apparel.”

¶ Again, clothing ought to be warm through sincere piety, conveniently fit through the equity of justice.