Worcester F 80 Distinctiones

266 The Evil Way (*Via mala*)

The evil way is multiplex. For sometimes the way is a desert of sloth, Isai. 57[:17] man “went away wandering in his own heart.” The way is muddy with gluttony [3] Esdras 9[:55]: “They all went away to eat and drink.” The way is slippery like a turtle against a wall, Psal. [9:26]: “His ways are filthy at all times.” The canonical Jude 1[:7]: “Going after other flesh, were made an example, suffering the punishment of eternal fire.” Thus “Ruben went, and slept with Bala,” Gen. 35[:22].

¶ There is a thorny way of avarice which pierces by solicitudes, so goes the partridge to seize other eggs which however afterwards she loses, Jer. 17[:11]: “The partridge has hatched eggs which she did not lay.” And the rocky road of wrath is the way of pride, mountainous and ruinous, Prov. 17[:16]: “He that makes his house high, seeks a downfall.” Just as a bear ascends a tree and satiated with honey, he falls. Therefore, Eccli. 32[:25]: “Go not in the way of ruin.” There is the dark way of envy, the canonical Jude [1:11]: “Woe unto them, for they have gone in the way of Cain.” There is the way of profound mistrust through which Judas fell when he hung himself.

¶ There is the laborious way of avarice which one acquires with labor, preserves with fear, and loses with sorrow, Sap. 5[:7-8]: “We wearied ourselves in the way of iniquity, and have walked through hard ways. What has it profited us?” etc. Like a mole that always digs in the earth, he has his eyes under the skin by which he does not use except near death and then that skin is broken, and this one “There is a way which seems just to a man, but the ends thereof lead to death,” Prov. 14[:12]. For example, among the *rich*, Luke 6[:24].