Worcester F 80 Distinctiones

63 Sweetness (*Dulcedo*)

Sweetness is to be examined for fault, grace, Christ, and glory. The first is to be fled, the second to be served, the third to be imitated, and the fourth to be sought after. The first is thus to be fled because it is brief and transitory. For if a noble child today is born and immediately dies it would be a bitterness rather than a sweetness to the parents, Isai. 24[:8]: “The mirth of timbrels has ceased, the of noise of them that rejoice is ended, the melody of the harp is silent.” Second because it is fallacious and harmful, just as for the fish if it pursues the danger of the hook, the bird the noose, the bear the pit, let them flee the day of sweet food, Prov. 7[:5]: “From the woman that is not yours, and from the stranger who sweetens her words.”

¶ Second because they are vile and abominable just as the noble person who refuses to eat with dogs, even the delicacies, Prov. 9[:17]: “Stolen waters are sweeter.” Prov. 24[:20] it is said “May worms be his sweetness.”

¶ The second sweetness, namely, of grace is to be preserved for three reasons, because to think in the heart through the thought of truth which is triangular. These three angles do not destroy the delight, but to think upon that [Matt. 25:34]: “Come, you blessed of my Father,” etc., and that of Can. 2[:14]: “Let your voice sound in my ears.” Eccli. 23[:37]: “There is nothing sweeter than to have regard to the commandments of the Lord.” Second in the mouth through hatred of evil, Psal. [118:103]: “How sweet are your words to my palate.” And through the love of the good, Eccli. 6[:5]: “A sweet word multiplies friends.” Second in work through humility in prosperity, Eccli 11[:3]: “The bee is small among flying things, but her fruit has the chiefest sweetness,” etc. And through patience in adversities, Prov. 27[:7]: “A soul that is hungry shall take even bitter for sweet.
¶ The third sweetness, namely, Christ, is to be changed because he was sweet in his moral precepts, Psal. [24:8]: “The Lord is sweet and righteous, therefore,” Eccli. 23[:37]: “There is nothing sweeter than to have regard to the commandments of the Lord.” Sweeter in the sacraments of salvation, Wis. 16[:21]: Your sustenance showed your sweetness to your children,” etc. Sweetest in the rewards of eternity, Psal. [30:20]: “How great is the multitude of your sweetness, O Lord.

¶ It this way the superior ought to understand light things, easily indulge, largely

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reward. The fourth sweetness, namely, of glory is to be sought because it is beautiful in sight, Eccle. 11[:7]: “The light is sweet, and it is delightful for the eyes to see the sun.” In the taste with relish, Can. 2[:3]: “His fruit was sweet to my palate.” In precious things hope for, Eccli. 24[:27]: “My spirit is sweet above honey.” [1] Pet. 2[:2]: “As newborn babes.”