

THE PERSONALITY OF CHRIST

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649669417

The Personality of Christ by Dom Anscar Vonier

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

DOM ANSCAR VONIER

**THE PERSONALITY
OF CHRIST**

**THE
PERSONALITY OF CHRIST**

THE PERSONALITY
OF CHRIST

BY
DOM ANSCAR VONIER, O.S.B.
ABBOT OF BUCKFAST

SECOND IMPRESSION

LONGMANS, GREEN, AND CO.
39 PATERNOSTER ROW, LONDON
FOURTH AVENUE & 30TH STREET, NEW YORK
BOMBAY, CALCUTTA, AND MADRAS
1916

All rights reserved

LIBRARY
OF THE
BISHOPRIC OF
WESTMONASTERY

BT304
V6

Gift of
Professor B.H. Lerman

Cum librum cui titulus 'The Personality of Christ'
a Rmo P. Anshario Vonier, Abbate Congregationis
Nostrae, anglico sermone exaratum, Rmus P. Abbas
Thomas Bergh, Censor a Nobis deputatus, recognoverit
et in lucem edi posse probaverit, facultatem facimus
ut typis mandetur, si iis ad quos pertinet ita videbitur.

Datum Sclaci in Protocoenobio S. Scholasticae, V.,
die 26 Junii 1914.

D. MAURUS M. SERAFINI, O.S.B.,
Abb. Gen.
D. ISIDORUS M. SAIN, O.S.B.,
a Secretis.

NIKIL OBSTAT:
Francis. M. Canon Wyndham,
Censor Deputatus.

IMPRIMATUR.
Edm. Canon Surmont,
Vic. Gen.

WESTMONASTERII,
die 26 Augusti, 1914.

FOREWORD

THE four Gospels are the books most written about and most commented on in our own days. No age has produced anything superior, in finished scholarship, to the Gospel literature of our times. Even those exegetes from whom the fulness of the Christian faith is not to be expected are mostly reverent and often exhibit learning of the highest quality. Indeed, the modern system of 'Meditation,' on the other hand, as an integral part of spiritual and ascetical life, has produced an endless variety of books in which Christ's Life is set forth in a way that ought to be most efficacious in making us understand the Gospels, as they are ransacked by the writers of 'Meditations' in order to compel us to more intimate love for, and more close imitation of, Christ. Some of those productions are really superior studies of the wonderful character of Christ, and they give us what mere exegetical learning could never give—an insight into Christ's intimate Life. The present work is neither exegetical, nor apologetical, nor

787426

devotional, but strictly theological. Catholic Christology has received less attention from the public, though our own days have seen the production of some first-rate treatises *de Verbo Incarnato* by professional theologians. Yet we cannot entirely neglect the theological view of Christ without grave dangers to both our exegetical and devotional efforts. In my own humble way I am trying to help in filling up the great gap with the present modest book.

The English Fathers of the Dominican Order are bringing out an English translation of the third part of the Summa of St. Thomas Aquinas, which is his treatise on the Incarnation. That there should be a demand for such a work, in the Anglo-Saxon world, is a thing to rejoice the Angels; there are evidently men amongst us eager to penetrate the subtleties and sound the depths of the masterpieces of religious thought.

My book is a very unconventional rendering of the most important points of the third part of the Summa; but I trust that I have at least succeeded in giving the spirit of the great medieval saint and thinker, and if the following pages produce a desire in the reader to go to the Summa itself, I shall consider that I have had a notable success.

ANSCAR VONIER, O.S.B.

BUCKFAST ABBEY.
May 1, 1914.

CONTENTS

CHAPTER	PAGE
I. THE METAPHYSICS OF THE INCARNATION	1
II. THE CHRIST OF THE GOSPELS, OF CHRISTIAN THEOLOGY, AND OF CHRISTIAN EXPERIENCE	8
III. CHRIST AND THE SCIENCE OF COMPARATIVE RELIGION	14
IV. CHRIST THE WONDERFUL	20
V. AN ATTEMPT AT DEFINING PERSONALITY	29
VI. THE REPLACEMENT OF HUMAN PERSONALITY BY DIVINE PERSONALITY	39
VII. THE CONTINUANCE OF THE HUMAN NATURE IN CHRIST	45
VIII. 'AMEN, AMEN, I SAY TO YOU, BEFORE ABRAHAM WAS MADE, I AM'	48
IX. HOW COMPLETELY CHRIST'S HUMAN NATURE IS DIVINE	53
X. THE WORD WAS MADE FLESH	60
XI. A SCHOLASTIC HYPOTHESIS	64
XII. 'INSTRUMENTUM CONJUNCTUM DIVINITATIS'	69
XIII. THE AIM OF HYPOSTATIC UNION	85
XIV. THE TWO WILLS AND THE TWO OPERATIONS IN CHRIST	90
XV. CHRIST'S KNOWLEDGE	95
XVI. IN CHRIST	108
XVII. CHRIST ALL IN ALL	112

CHAPTER	PAGE
XVIII. CHRIST'S RESERVES	122
XIX. THE HIDING OF CHRIST'S GODHEAD	128
XX. THE FORM OF THE SLAVE	132
XXI. THE TRANSITION	142
XXII. CHRIST'S SINCERITY	152
XXIII. THE GREAT LIFE	161
XXIV. GOD MEETING GOD	176
XXV. THE MAN OF SORROWS	181
XXVI. THE HAPPINESS OF CHRIST	185
XXVII. CHRIST THE STRONG ONE	190
XXVIII. THE MISUNDERSTANDINGS OF THE GOSPEL	196
XXIX. THE CHRIST TRAGEDY	202
XXX. THE CHARACTER OF CHRIST	210
XXXI. CHRIST'S PLACE IN THE WORLD	221
XXXII. CHRIST AND THE WORLD'S PROGRESS	230
XXXIII. THE POWER OF CHRIST	235
XXXIV. THE FINDING OF CHRIST	238
XXXV. CHRIST THE FATHER OF THE WORLD TO COME	242
XXXVI. THE LINK BETWEEN CHRIST'S MORTAL LIFE AND THE EUCHARIST	247
XXXVII. THE MAJESTY OF THE EUCHARISTIC PRESENCE	251
XXXVIII. THE BLOOD OF CHRIST	255
XXXIX. THE OPTIMISM OF THE INCARNATION	260
XL. CHRIST THE HERO.	268
CONCLUSION	271