

**ONE HUNDRED THESES
ON THE FOUNDATIONS
OF HUMAN KNOWLEDGE**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649259694

One Hundred Theses on the Foundations of Human Knowledge by Merwin-Marie Snell

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MERWIN-MARIE SNELL

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Alexander Finch

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KNOWLEDGE

BY

MERWIN-MARIE SNELL

Veritas proprie invenitur in intellectu humano.

S. THOMAS AQUINAS, *De Veritate*,
QUEST. I., Art. IV.

God offers to every mind its choice between truth and
repose. Take which you please.

RALPH WALDO EMERSON, *Essay on Intellect*.

Washington, D. C.
Published by the Author
MDCCCXCL

Nil Obstat

Josephus Poble, S. T. D.

Imprimatur

Jacobus Cardinalis Gibbons

Archiepiscopus Baltimorensis

BX

1753

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PREFACE

The following theses, which have been prepared primarily as subjects of discussion for a private class in the philosophy of religion, are published in order that they may be passed through the alembic of a wider criticism before being made the basis of a monograph, to be called *The Keys of the Two Kingdoms*, which it is the author's hope to elaborate during the coming twelvemonth.

Neither the present pamphlet, nor the more pretentious work in which such of its elements as may survive the critical ordeal are to be embodied, is directly intended for the propagation of any existing philosophy or the formulation of a new one.

The main object in view is the indication of a clear and sure road through the labyrinth of mutually destructive philosophies and isms which confuse the minds of those noblest of inquirers who

dare to interrogate every teacher, and who are ready to sacrifice even their ancestral theogonies or their dearest negations on the altar of Eternal Truth can they but discover its Temple.

It may be that they will serve also to rouse into activity one here and there among that still larger class who have fallen a prey to the languid latitudinarianism of this *fin de siècle*, and have given up the search for truth as a wearisome and hopeless task.

If any originality in method should seem, to some over-indulgent reader, to entitle the catena of thoughts here presented to the rank of a philosophical system, he may designate it, for convenience sake, as an Analytical philosophy, in view of its method, or a Pragmatic philosophy, in view of its aim.

Its author seeks no disciples. If by its means any one shall be enabled to gain a foothold on the rock of temporal and eternal certitude, let him praise the Eternal and go his way. But if he de-

sires to become a true metaphysician, he must place himself at the feet of the Angel of the Schools, the great Master of sound and wholesome philosophy.

ST. THOMAS AQUINAS

Is it a mere coincidence that the Church honors to-day the Archangel Raphael? The circumstance may at least suggest the sweet appropriateness of taking as our heavenly patron during our intellectual pilgrimage that golden spirit who watches always

"By the sealed and secret Fountain,
In the midst of the Abyss,
Where God's love of human nature
Springs to life and light and bliss."

Feast of St. Raphael,
1891.



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