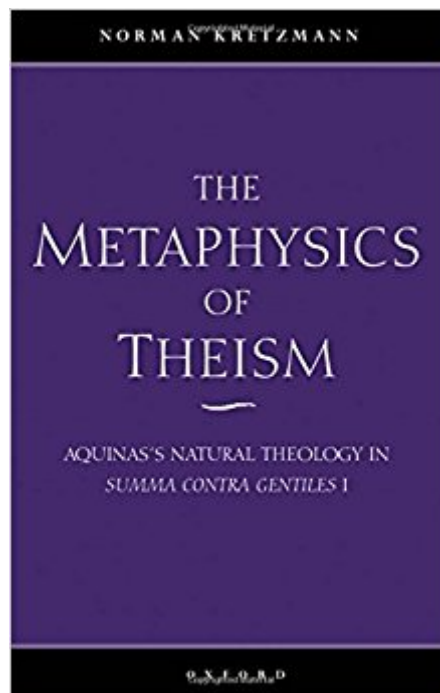




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The Metaphysics Of Theism: Aquinas's Natural Theology In Summa Contra Gentiles I



Synopsis

The *Metaphysics of Theism* is the definitive study of the natural theology of Thomas Aquinas, the greatest of medieval philosophers, written by one of the world's most eminent scholars of medieval thought. Natural theology is the investigation by analysis and rational argument of fundamental questions about reality, considered in relation to God. Professor Kretzmann shows the continuing value of Aquinas's doctrines to the philosophical enterprise today; he argues that natural theology offers the only route by which philosophers can, as philosophers, approach theological propositions, and that the one presented in this book is the best available natural theology.

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Customer Reviews

"A serious and powerful exposition of Aquinas's metaphysical philosophy of God and a challenging call for the revivification of natural theology based on demonstrative and probable philosophical reasoning."--Religious Studies Review

Norman Kretzmann, Susan Linn Sage Professor Emeritus of Philosophy at Cornell University, New York, completed this book at the beginning of 1998, and died in the summer of that year. He taught philosophy at Cornell for more than thirty years, and also held appointments at Bryn Mawr College, Ohio State University, and the University of Illinois, and visiting positions at Wayne State University and the Universities of Minnesota, Arizona, and Oxford. This is the follow-up to Professor Kretzmann's 1997 Clarendon Press volume *The Metaphysics of Theism: Aquinas's Natural*

Theology in Summa contra gentiles I. He also published scholarly editions of various medieval texts (by William of Sherwood, William of Ockham, Paul of Venice, and Richard Kilvington), many learned articles and essays, and a number of edited collections. He was the principal editor of The Cambridge History of Later Medieval Philosophy (1982), and co-editor with Eleonore Stump of The Cambridge Companion to Aquinas (1993).

A tremendously significant contribution to philosophical theology, Kretzmann's book offers a sufficiently full explication of Aquinas' work so as to better enable modern readers to grapple more profitably with his arguments.

Essential for any intermediate to advanced student of medieval philosophy or philosophy of religion. Kretzmann extracts the most powerful arguments from the Summa Contra Gentiles. If you think you know Aquinas's proofs, thanks to a Philosophy 101 treatment of the Five Ways in the Summa Theologica, think again! The ST is for beginners -- the SCG is the graduate seminar, and Kretzmann brings it to life again!

Thomas Aquinas' metaphysics are very outdated. I find it amazing that this is still upheld as "the" source of truth for orthodox catholics. Much has been said and criticized, specially about Aristotle, which is the basis of most of what Aquinas has to say. You can't remove the foundation and expect the house to remain unaffected. But in this field stranger things have been known to happen. All in all, Aquinas is still a magnificent piece of work, an amazing intellectual trip and when not read directly, as it is in this case, it can even be fun.

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