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THE ELEMENTS OF THE COSMOLOGY OF LIGHT
IN BARTHOLOMEW OF BOLOGNA

Summary

The paper shows the elements of the cosmology of light in Bartholomew of Bologna, the Franciscan master of theology of the thirteenth century (d. after 1294). The paradigm of light is the key concept to understand the thought of this Bologna scholar. His views were principally inspired by Robert Grosseteste's cosmology. According to Bartholomew of Bologna, the universe is not only the Platonic-Aristotelian *machina mundi* with its heavenly spheres and the spheres of the four elements of the sublunary world. It is also a vision of the cosmos in accordance with traditional theology with its Empyrean or crystalline heaven. In the construction of his picture of the universe he drew on the rich tradition of the Franciscan school.

The paper discusses some particular issues contained in the *Tractatus de luce* by Bartholomew of Bologna, the issues that were widely considered in the Middle Ages. This concerns especially the conception of the multiplication of forms (*multiplicatio specierum*), the affection of light on the Earth and its effects, the composition of complex and animate bodies, the structure of heavenly bodies, and the conception of the natural place.

The doctrine of Bartholomew of Bologna is a meaningful example how to adjust the problems concerning the metaphysics of light derived from Neo-Platonism to the theological Christian problems.

Translated by Jan Kłos

Słowa kluczowe: Bartłomiej z Bolonii, średniowiecze, światło, kosmologia, metafizyka światła, wszechświat, ciała niebieskie.

Key words: Bartholomew of Bologna, Middle Ages, light, cosmology, metaphysics of light, universe, heavenly bodies.

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