

Rothschild Canticles Flanders, ca. 1300 New Haven Beinecke Library, MS 404

> HAA 250M Apophasis: The Negative Way

















Alexander Romance Berlin, KK MS 78 C 1



AlexandeQueen Mary Psalter London, BL Royal 2 B VII, f. 112r





t lic in fyon firmata linn et launare filficata linn luce requient tin terlin potesta mea et tadicani in pild homori ficato t in ytes ter mer heredi



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Abraham & Three Angels at Mamre Psalter, ca. 1270–1280 Cambridge, MS K.26, f. 94



Missel Toulouse, BM, ms. 91, f. 121r The lot st & Gua bourtas centle . Ilam is g & pupper as prut

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Granum sinapis Bern, UB, MS IX 24, f. 40v



Suso, Exemplar Strasburg, BNU, ms. 2929



Breviary of Jeanne de Bourbon Paris, BnF, ms. lat. 1288, f. 617r



Hours of Jeanne of Navarre Paris, BnF, ms. n.a.lat. 3145, f. 25r



Psalter (Use of Troyes) Paris, BnF, ms. lat. 238, f. 114v–115



Lothian Bible, England, early XIII NY, Morgan Library, M.791, 4r



ater aplacet s'in filto + fi luis i pane + fut les abut a ceptofundo uto i illam limita



te velpiram? fiantes fare polim? do la de polim? de la de polim? de lare quid nd la nd eft en? tatte n tra n celu nep tra tate i tale

aug quate utent in celo n dado tale n utent + est cortatios i celo n li augeas ymaginationes cogi tatoles tute tol a potes fine quo lit maios fuie quo lit clarios miles tam aut inumerabilit neg boc est teus







(भी गांगींद नम्म्रिंगर वुठे गिरे दीर पर्यामालेक दि हिंद ने पार्टर हरन दर्दा में ने पात्री स्थिमाति में देंद्र नापिए हिंड ने दिलार हिं सारा प्रे में मार नामन में के फार्ट में भार्मित्रेड वुठे मिन त्वीखुठ गिमन में के फार्ट में भार्मित्रेड वुठे मिन त्वीखुठ गिमन मारा में के फार्ट मामित्रेड वुठे मिन त्वीखुठ गिमन मारा में के फार्ट मामित्रेड पि का के द्वी में मार्ट और के में फार्ट मामित्रे में माम मांगी के दी म्हार इ क्वेंट द वुठे भूमित के में ट्युप्ट मारा के ने वीर नेक्क्मर म

Lidoo ë droni lio ad din Enistatë fiim rat hiy central + hiy d' fiy apric kanoz liproz cheolophile dige na 7 mitroz do dozhiy i genië + fiy lucence + Binnitin vita in nous + Abtolura + i dutibuna the logie mitria f hytuceren Abtondië oc cube doveri filenci calignie i dolani fimo q hiy marfettutin hy splentere + Të oc relug + Tuildim V (up toz hytoz splentozit; fi implezen Tuutble Tetlos b ad din ad amo aw cu b form dica ead. Bonaventure, Itinerarium mentis in deum, ch. V

4. Marvelous then is the blindness of the intellect which does not consider that which is its primary object and without which it can know nothing. But just as the eye intent upon the various differences of the colors does not see the light by which it sees the other things and, if it sees it, does not notice it, so the mind's eye, intent upon particular and universal beings, does not notice Being itself, which is beyond all genera, though that comes first before the mind and through it all other things. Wherefore it seems very true that just as the bat's eye behaves in the light, so the eye of the mind behaves before the most obvious things of nature. Because accustomed to the shadows of beings and the phantasms of the sensible world, when it looks upon the light of the highest Being, it seems to see nothing, not understanding that darkness itself is the fullest illumination of the mind, just as when the eye sees pure light it seems to itself to be seeing nothing.

5. See then purest Being itself, if you can, and you will understand that it cannot be thought of as derivative from another. And thus necessarily that must be thought of as absolutely primal which can be derivative neither from nothing nor from anything. For what exists through itself if Being does not exist through itself and of itself? You will understand that, lacking Non-Being in every respect and therefore having no beginning nor end, it is eternal. You will understand also that it contains nothing in itself save Being itself, for it is in no way composite, but is most simple. You will understand that it has no potentialities within it, since every possible has in some way something of Non-Being, but Being is the highest actuality. You will understand that it has no diversity, for it is One in the highest degree. Being, therefore, which is pure Being and most simply Being and absolutely Being, is Being primary, eternal, most simple, most actual, most perfect, and one to the highest degree.

भि गांगिंद सम्भवत वुठे गिरे द्वि पर्यामालेख दि जि के पार्टर ज़ान द्वांड गो के पासेंग्रिमाधित के देंद्र सापिट कि के प्लार्टांड स्वायों म सिमान्साम्ब के देंद्र सापिट कि के प्लार्टांड स्वायों म सिमान्साम्ब कि देंद्र सापिट कि के प्लार्टांड स्वायों म सिमान्साम्ब कि देंद्र सापिट कि के प्लार्टांड स्वायों म सिमान्साम्ब कि देंद्र सापिट कि के प्राय के के भारत के मान्सी क्रिड वुठे मिन ट्यायुक जिम्बन गोर्टा के में भारत के मान्स के प्राय के के भारत प्राय के मान मांगी के दि के स्वार के करेंद्र दे वुठे भूगिक के दि व्युप्टाया के बीठ से व्याह म

Licto & droni lio ad din Entrate linn rat hy central + hy d' hy apric kanoz tiproz theolophie dige not improze do dozhy i goni + hy hucene + thinnilin via i noua + ab lotura + i du thin the logie minita & hy huceren ab fonde o cube corrit filenen chignie i obfauri fimo q hy marfettution hy plentere + Tä & reluc + Tuilitim t' hy top 2 hy 102 tiplentere, i mplezen Tuulitie Tellog b ad din ad amo aur au b form dic zed.



VII, 5–6: You, too, my friend, having been toughened on the journey, in consdering these mystical visions, give up the senses and intellectual activity, both perceivable and invisible, everything which exists and everything which does not exist. So far as is possible, unknowingly reestablish yourself in the unity which is beyond every essence and knowledge. For, indeed, giving up all things and absolved from all things, you vourself ascend by means of that which is universally unboundable and and by an absolute disassociation of pure mind, to the ray of divine shadows which is beyond essential. But if you seek to understand how these things work, examine grace and not doctrine, desire and not intelligence, the ache of prayer and not the study of texts, the spouse and not the teacher, God and not people, darkness and not brightness, not light, but the fire which completely enflames and which transfers one into God through its completeness in anointing and its most burning affection. This fire is indeed God and His forge is in Jerusalem: Christ sets light to the fervor of his strongest passion, which only He truly perceives, and of which he says: My soul has chosen suspension and my bones have chosen death Whoever loves this death can see God, because it is true beyond doubt. No-one can look on God and live96. So let us die and enter into the darkness, ...

... let us impose silence upon our cares, our desires and our illusions. Let us pass over with the crucified Christ, from this world to the Father. Showing us the Father, we say with Phillip, It is enough for us98, and together with Paul we hear, My grace is enough for you. And we exult with David, saying, My flesh and my heart are lacking, oh God of my heart, eternal God whom I have chosen May God be blessed forever and may all the people say, Let it be so, let it be so. Let it be so.

Cf. Pseudo-Dionysius, Mystical Theology, I.1

Or this I pray; and, Timothy, my friend, my advice to you as you look for a sight of the mysterious things, is to leave behind you everything perceived and understood, everything perceptible and understandable, all that is not and all that is and unknowingly strive upward as much as you can toward union with him who is beyond all being and knowledge. By an undivided and Absolute abandonment of yourself and everything, shedding all and freed from all freed from all, you will be uplifted to the ray of the divine shadow [darkness] which is above everything that is. But see to it that none of this comes to the hearing of the uninformed, that is to say, to those caught up with the things of the world, who imagine that there is nothing beyond instances of individual being and who think that by their own intellectual resources they can have a direct knowledge of him who has made the shadows [darkness] his hiding place. And if initiation into the divine is beyond such people, what is to be said of those others, still more uninformed, who describe the transcendent Cause of all things in terms derived from the lowest orders of being, and who claim that it is in no way superior to the godless, multiformed shapes they themselves have made? What has actually to be said about the Cause of everything is this. Since it is the Cause of all beings, we should posit and ascribe to it all the affirmations we make in regard to beings, and, more appropriately, we should negate all these affirmations, since it surpasses all being.

דרמו עדיבות דושות אול וונותנו וטוותושלול, סכוושולבות דושות וונותנו וטוותושלול, בא בע לי וותוש אל שיבות לי סודווש הטל שיבו לוכמול ב- שואונים ישודו הטל אוטוא ב שוגוסי ליודוב באוטות אי מבי אולי בא לוכבבו ישודוב כמושות אי מבי אולי כסביותי אי שותי לובר התי שהלי לותר דור אווא אי לוכן סותו ושיר המד המד מתי

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Hippocrates of Chios and Bryson of Heraclea debating the Quadrature of the Circle Aristotle: Logica nova, England, ca. 1225 London, British Library, MS. Royal 12 D II, f. 10r

Diagrams accompanying De docta ignoranti Nicholas of Cusa: Opera. Kues, before August 1464 Bernkastel-Kues, St.-Nikolaus-Hospital, Cod. Cus. 218, f. 7r





Exitus-reditus Diagram Nicholas of Cusa: De coniecturis, Trier, before November, 1449 Trier, Stadtbibliothek, Hs. 1927/1426 4o, f. 104v (detail)

Reditus-exitus-reditus Diagram Nicholas of Cusa: De coniecturis, Trier, before November, 1449 Trier, Stadtbibliothek, Hs. 1927/1426 4o, f. 104v



Pythagorean Number Sequences. Nicholas of Cusa: De coniecturis Trier, before November, 1449 Trier, Stadtbibliothek, Hs. 1927/1426 4o, f. 87v (detail)



Pythagorean Tetractys. Nicholas of Cusa: De coniecturis Trier, before November, 1449 Trier, Stadtbibliothek, Hs. 1927/1426 4o, f. 95v (detail)





Rhineland, before 1448 Nuremberg, Stadtbibliothek, Cent. II 9, f. 142v (detail) Diagram P. Nicholas of Cusa: De coniecturis Bavaria, after 1454 Munich, Bayerische Staatsbibliothek, Clm 14213, f. 44v





Diagram U. Nicholas of Cusa: De coniecturis Rhineland, before 1448 Nuremberg, Stadtbibliothek, Cent. II 9, f. 145r

Diagram U. Nicholas of Cusa: *Opera* Kues, before Aug. 1464 Bernkastel-Kues, St.-Nikolaus-Hospital, Cod. Cus. 218, f. 62r



Diagram P & U. Nicholas of Cusa: De coniecturis, Bavaria, after 1454. Munich, Bayerische Staatsbibliothek, Clm 14213, f. 47v (copied from Trier, Hs. 1927/1426 40)



Rogier van der Weyden: Braque Triptych, Christ as Salvator mundi (central panel: detail), Brussels, ca. 1452. Paris, Musée du Louvre, RF2063







Master of the Darmstadt Altar: Salvator mundi Upper Rhine, ca. 1460 Frankfurt, Städel-Institut, inv. no. 2060







Jan Provoost, *Last Judgment* Southern Netherlands (Bruges or Antwerp), ca. 1505. Cambridge, MA, Harvard University Art Museums, 1997.2