

NORMAN KRETZMANN

THE  
METAPHYSICS  
OF  
CREATION

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AQUINAS'S NATURAL THEOLOGY IN  
*SUMMA CONTRA GENTILES* II

OXFORD

# Metaphysics Of Creation

**Herve J. Thibault**



## **Metaphysics Of Creation:**

**The Metaphysics of Creation** Norman Kretzmann, 1999-06-17 About Aquinas St Thomas Aquinas lived from 1224 to 1274 mostly in his native Italy but for a time in France He was the greatest of the medieval philosopher theologians and one of the most important of all Western thinkers His most famous books are the two summaries of his teachings the *Summa contra gentiles* and the *Summa theologiae* About this book Norman Kretzmann expounds and criticizes Aquinas's natural theology of creation which is natural or philosophical in virtue of Aquinas's having developed it without depending on the data of Scripture The *Metaphysics of Creation* is a continuation of the project Kretzmann began in *The Metaphysics of Theism* moving the focus from the first to the second book of Aquinas's *Summa contra gentiles* Here we find Aquinas building upon his account of the existence and nature of God arguing that the existence of things other than God must be explained by divine creation out of nothing He develops arguments to identify God's motivation for creating to defend the possibility of a beginningless created universe and to explain the origin of species He then focuses exclusively on creatures with intellects with the result that more than half of his natural theology of creation constitutes a philosophy of mind Kretzmann gives a masterful guide through all these arguments As before he not only expounds Aquinas's natural theology but advocates it as the best historical instance available to us

*Aquinas and the Metaphysics of Creation* Gaven Kerr OP, 2019-07-01 In this book Gaven Kerr expands on the brief treatment of creation offered in his 2015 volume *Aquinas's Way to God The Proof in De Ente et Essentia* Aquinas does not offer one cohesive treatment on the issue of creation Kerr synthesizes discussions from across his works in order to present a unified Thomistic metaphysics of creation Kerr argues that Aquinas's metaphysics of creation wherein God is conceived as the absolute source of all that exists is the backbone of his philosophical theology Throughout his writings the framework of the absolute dependence of creatures on God and of the independence of God as existence itself is ever present Without understanding this aspect of Aquinas's philosophical thought Kerr suggests it is impossible to understand his philosophy of God When it comes to metaphysics Thomas is committed to thinking through the issues involved therein on the basis of natural reason Aquinas and the *Metaphysics of Creation* demonstrates Aquinas's belief that we must arrive at an affirmation of the existence of God on the basis of a wider metaphysical view as to the constitution of reality a view that does not presuppose divine truths but can indeed establish them

**The Metaphysics of Creation**, 1999 Norman Kretzmann expounds and criticises Aquinas theology of creation which is natural or philosophical in that Aquinas developed it without depending on the data of Scripture

*Matter as an Image of the Good* Rachel M. Coleman, 2025-07-03 The question of matter has been a quiet but enduring question in our desire to know being and therefore to know ourselves since we began to ask questions about the nature of being at all Indeed in the *Timaeus* Plato writes that matter is only graspable by some bastard reasoning The use of this evocative adjective is not meant simply to indicate that matter is bad or the source of all evil but rather indicates matter's middleness not exactly being itself but also

not nonbeing simpliciter Thus thinking about matter cannot happen in the usual way Ferdinand Ulrich is not a usual thinker and this book seeks to illuminate Ulrich's radical way of thinking being and thinking being as gift which is to say it seeks to explain Ulrich's metaphysics of creation It does so in light of Ulrich's understanding of matter which has a central place in his work and indeed is for Ulrich the test case for whether any metaphysics is sufficiently radical

**Creation and Metaphysics** Herve J. Thibault, 2013-11-21 During the last twenty five years or so studies in Thomistic existentialism have repeatedly indicated that the notion of creation played a decisive role in St Thomas Aquinas' view of existence as an existential act or *actus essendi* The importance for metaphysics of this view of existence as act warrants an investigation of the relation between creation and *actus essendi* for St Thomas is the only one in the history of philosophy to have considered existence as an act of being This study will be limited to the early works of St Thomas By the time of the *Summa Contra Gentiles* he had reached the key positions of his metaphysics And the first fifty three chapters of the *Summa Contra Gentiles* were written in Paris before June 1259 the rest was completed in Italy before 1265 The project was therefore conceived by St Thomas during the first period of his career How the notion of creation enabled him to transform the Aristotelian metaphysics of essence into a metaphysics of *esse* can be seen from three sections of the *Summa Contra Gentiles* Although primarily a theological treatise the *Contra Gentiles* nevertheless accomplishes a radical metaphysical transformation of Aristotelianism by shifting the whole perspective from *esse in actu per se* to *actus essendi* Seen from the perspective of existential act as the absolute perfection metaphysics is raised to a strictly transcendental plane of consideration

**Creation and Metaphysics** Herve J. Thibault, 2014-09-01 [A Metaphysics of Creation for the Information Age](#) Liran Shia Gordon, 2022-05-23 The metaphysical and theological writings of John Duns Scotus 1265-1308 one of the most intriguing albeit if now forgotten philosophers of the late Middle Ages were seminal in the emergence of modernity A *Metaphysics of Creation for the Information Age* A Dialogue with Duns Scotus uses the prism of the concept of Creation as the leitmotif to assemble and interpret Scotus's system of thought in a unified manner In doing so Liran Shia Gordon reframes Scotus's metaphysics such that it confronts the challenges posed by information technology and its impact on our lives thought and actions Surprisingly although there has been great interest in the emergence and dissemination of information technology through the popular media there has not yet been a genuine and vigorous philosophical consideration of the multiple ways information technology alters the basic categories by which we perceive and understand reality Juxtaposing medieval philosophy and information technology offers an unconventional horizon to frame the foundational changes carried by the information revolution and reassess the relevancy of medieval philosophy

**Metaphysics** Adrian Pabst, 2012-05-04 This book does nothing less than to set new standards in combining philosophical with political theology Pabst's argument about rationality has the potential to change debates in philosophy politics and religion from the foreword This comprehensive and detailed study of individuation reveals the theological nature of metaphysics Adrian Pabst argues

that ancient and modern conceptions of being or individual substance fail to account for the ontological relations that bind beings to each other and to God their source On the basis of a genealogical account of rival theories of creation and individuation from Plato to postmodernism Pabst proposes that the Christian Neo Platonic fusion of biblical revelation with Greco Roman philosophy fulfills and surpasses all other ontologies and conceptions of individuality

**Poet of Heaven & Earth** Larry Rinehart,2017-02-22 This book challenges the claim of the modern sciences to explain the degree of order observed in nature It argues that a traditional metaphysical perspective is required for the explanation of this order and derives such a perspective from the book of Genesis Finally it connects the metaphysics with biochemistry and offers a model of terrestrial biogenesis

*Dust Bound for Heaven* Reinhard Hütter,2012-10-01 In *Dust Bound for Heaven* Reinhard Hütter shows how Thomas Aquinas's view of the human being as dust bound for heaven weaves together elements of two questions without fusion or reduction Does humanity still have an insatiable thirst for God that sends each person on an irrepressible religious quest that only the vision of God can quench Or must the human being living after the fall become a new creation in order to be readied for heaven Hütter also applies Thomas's anthropology to a host of pressing contemporary concerns including the modern crisis of faith and reason political theology the relationship between divine grace and human freedom and many more The concluding chapter explores the Christological center of Thomas's theology

**Christ the Logos of Creation: An Essay in Analogical Metaphysics** John R. Betz,2023-09-28 The Prologue of the Gospel of John identifies Jesus Christ as the eternal Word or Logos of the Father who became flesh for the salvation of the world Yet the world that Christ saves is his world from the beginning for he is also the Logos of creation the one through whom all things were made John 1:3 This divinely revealed claim has profound implications not only for theology but also for metaphysics whose relation to Christian doctrine was undermined over the course of the twentieth century such that the Christian faith has become an increasingly private affair rather than a credible account of reality and an invitation to participate more fully in it With Christ the Logos of Creation John Betz seeks to recover a Christ centered analogical metaphysics and to establish the indispensability of such metaphysics for Christian theology and the Christian vision of reality In Part I he dispels the fog of confusion about analogical metaphysics and addresses the ecumenical issues posed by Karl Barth's famous rejection of the *analogia entis* Part II demonstrates how analogical metaphysics helps to explain Christian doctrine and sheds new light on the interrelationship between individual doctrines including Trinitarian theology Christology and soteriology and theological anthropology In Part III Betz explores how this analogical perspective can aid in resolving a number of theological disputes including the metaphysical relationship between nature and grace and the issue of divine humility Finally Part IV outlines further directions toward a fully Christological metaphysics that is proportionate both to the challenges of modern theology and the reality of our life in Christ the Logos

**Contemporary Perspectives on Vladimir Jankélévitch** Marguerite La Caze,Magdalena Zolkos,2019-09-05 *Contemporary Perspectives on Vladimir Jankélévitch* On What Cannot Be Touched

performs a cross disciplinary theoretical analysis of the philosophy of Vladimir Jankl vitch An international group of contributors including both established and emerging scholars engage with his writings from diverse disciplinary angles and consider his importance for contemporary political and cultural contexts Edited by Marguerite La Caze and Magdalena Zolkos the collection provides a holistic and multi perspectival approach to Jankl vitch s writings one that illuminates nuanced and complex connections across the five sub fields of philosophy to which Jankl vitch contributed moral philosophy virtue theory metaphysics philosophy of music and philosophy of religion The book addresses different aspects of and problems in Jankl vitch s philosophy with all chapters unified by a preoccupation with the motif of intangibility that which cannot be touched

**Optimism and the Best Possible World** Justin J. Daeley, 2025-03-07 This volume presents original essays on the ideas of philosophical optimism and the best possible world It highlights the historical and philosophical nuances of an idea that remains under treated within the literature despite its long and influential history Optimism broadly the thesis that God does the best or that this is the best possible world is often associated with the philosophy of Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz However there exists a rich tradition of philosophical optimism not only after Leibniz but before him as well The chapters in this volume address the philosophical nuances of optimism within the ancient medieval enlightenment modern and contemporary eras They cover a variety of thinkers ranging from Plato Aquinas Rousseau Voltaire Jonathan Edwards the new optimists of 19th century France and the non theistic optimists of the 20th century Optimism and the Best Possible World will be of interest to scholars and advanced students working in philosophy of religion history of philosophy religious history and intellectual history The Metaphysics of Evolution Thomas Whittaker, 1928 **Nova Et Vetera** , 2006

*Belief and Metaphysics* Conor Cunningham, Peter M. Candler, 2007 This is an exciting distinguished and indeed brave volume on the relation between belief and metaphysics The volume of twenty essays is exciting in that the points of entry to the question of relation and styles of discourse are so varied while less established voices are allowed to sound with the more established it is distinguished not simply because of its many famous names but because it unites in one volume analytic and continental philosophical approaches to the issue to the common purpose of retrieving yet also reconceiving metaphysics and it is brave in that not only does it refuse to indulge the contemporary prejudice against metaphysics and the necessity for belief to forgo the comfort of relation but brings to the surface postmodernity s own penchant for axiomatics and its containment of the religious by uncoupling it from metaphysical commitments Cyril O Regan Catherine F Huisking Professor of Theology Department of Theology Notre Dame Without metaphysics theology is boring some one says in this book without theology metaphysics goes nowhere some one else says Of course it depends what you mean by metaphysics and for that matter theology There is more than enough here to interest entertain and even enrage philosophers and especially theologians A MARVELLOUS COLLECTION Fergus Kerr O P Honorary Fellow in the School of Divinity at the University of Edinburgh This is a truly splendid collection of essays admirable not only for its range but for its depth It would be hard to

assemble a more distinguished cast of contributors and harder still to find another volume that offers comparably rich and varied reflections on the profound relation between faith and metaphysical reasoning David Bentley Ha **Searching for an Adequate God** David Ray Griffin,2000 In this book advocates of both process and free will theism come together for the first time to describe their respective theological perspectives and enter into constructive dialogue with each other Featuring two of today s best philosophers David R Griffin representing process theology and William Hasker representing free will theism as well as theologians interested in both views this volume provides a fully orb ed discussion of these two vital theological positions *Abū'l-Barakāt al-Baghdādī's Metaphysical Philosophy* Moshe M Pavlov,2017-04-21 Ab l Barak t is a renowned philosopher of the Arabic Jewish milieu who composed in his magnum opus the Kit b al Mu tabar a comprehensive metaphysics which challenged the accepted notions of the traditional metaphysical philosophy Ab l Barak t al Baghd d s Metaphysical Philosophy examines the novel philosophical conceptions of the first book of the Metaphysics of the Kit b al Mu tabar The aim is to present a developed conception of Ab l Barak t s systematic metaphysics This is accomplished by following the order of topics discussed while translating the relevant passages These different topics comprise stages of cognition that move from an analysis of time creation and causality to the conception of a higher spiritual realm of mental entities and a conception of God as the First Knower and Teacher The epistemological and ontological conceptions are analyzed at each culminating stage Ab l Barak t al Baghd d s Metaphysical Philosophy analyzes vast portions of the metaphysical study for the first time The book will thus be a valuable resource for all those seeking an original and broad metaphysics and for students and scholars of Jewish and Islamic Philosophy Furthermore it is of importance for those seeking a metaphysics related to scientific theories and those interested in the history of science and metaphysics **Creator** Peter J. Leithart,2023-12-05 Discussion about God s work of creation are often overwhelmed by questions such as the age of the earth and the relationship between divine creation and evolution Without completely ignoring these issues this rigorously grounded theological interpretation of Genesis 1 engages thinkers like Plato Martin Luther and Karl Barth **A Philosophical System of Theistic Idealism** James Lindsay,1917

## Reviewing **Metaphysics Of Creation**: Unlocking the Spellbinding Force of Linguistics

In a fast-paced world fueled by information and interconnectivity, the spellbinding force of linguistics has acquired newfound prominence. Its capacity to evoke emotions, stimulate contemplation, and stimulate metamorphosis is actually astonishing. Within the pages of "**Metaphysics Of Creation**," an enthralling opus penned by a very acclaimed wordsmith, readers attempt an immersive expedition to unravel the intricate significance of language and its indelible imprint on our lives. Throughout this assessment, we shall delve into the book's central motifs, appraise its distinctive narrative style, and gauge its overarching influence on the minds of its readers.

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