BOOK REVIEW & ANSWER TO:  *Mind, Matter, & Nature--A Thomistic Proposal for the Philosophy of Mind*

by Samuel A. Nigro, MD, February 2015.

To understand the metaphysical nature of the mind, this book reviews all and concludes with Aristotelian-Thomistic hylomorphism, fascinating for us philosophy non-specialists. Resolved are five major problems: (1) mind-body interaction; (2) psycho-physical dependence; (3) consciousness in non-human animals; (4) the moral implications of conceiving of ourselves as souls occupying bodies; and (5) the accommodation of both intellectual and moral agency.

In other words, though the Aristotelian hylomorphist does not deny that human beings are embodied beings, subject to physiologically based desires and inclinations, the fact that human beings have a transcendent intellectual power that operates independently of any bodily organ in its proper activity undermines the concern that we are merely subjects of our environment and physiology...Thus, since the human being has powers that transcend the physical and the physical is receptive to the activity of these powers, there is no reason to doubt that some of our activities are explained not by causes acting upon us, but by our will to pursue certain goods. (Page 279-280).

The above follows chapters which discuss the alternatives to Aristotelian-hylomorphism such as naturalism, dualism, materialism, emergentism, and the philosophy of nature. The “problems” of these alternatives are identified, discussed, and found not to be “problems” for St. Thomas’ substantial form/prime matter compounds because:

> ...matter, form, and the matter-form compound cannot be defined except in terms of roles played in change. The matter of a substance is whatever potency preexists and survives its generation (and will survive its corruption); form is whatever accounts for the difference between the matter and the actual substance whose generation or corruption we set out to explain, and the compound substance is whatever individual is subject to this process of change (Pages 282-283).

The author closes by acknowledging the “shocking” (page 284) impact on contemporary philosophers of Aristotelian hylomorphism and reminds that “truth” embraces that for which one has “compelling reasons” (page 285). No brief review can even allude to the depth and comprehensiveness of this book--a real treat especially for us non-specialists.

I must impose my grandiose reaction to this book--which is that quite simply all issues in the book and “mind, matter, and nature” are solved by ANGELS (Readers are referred to these references 1, 2, 3,--I will try to attach one of the references). In the Hebrew Tradition, the word for “creating” is the same as for “speaking”...and in Genesis, when God said X, there was X. As St. Hildegard reflected on God’s impact: “Mine is the blast of the thundered word (my emphasis) by which all things were made.” And other “words are angels” equivalents as Psalm 91:12: “For you, he has commanded angels to guard you in all your ways” (and are there any ways without words?). And Psalm 85:11-12: “Mercy and truth will meet; justice and peace will kiss. Truth will spring from the earth; justice will look down from Heaven.” Finally, Hebrews 1:14 says: “Are they not all ministering spirits, sent to serve for the sake of those who are to inherit salvation?” There are many more WORDS ARE ANGELS statements in and out of Scripture and just commonsense, once one begins to consider such (Just reflect on these pages).

So what does “Angels ARE words” have to do with “mind, matter and nature” and with the metaphysical nature of the mind? I say everything! To analyze my “Angels as the Word Spectrum” and “The Hierarchy of Angels” in which every word can be allocated, is to witness the matter/form of everything which has a word—from physical particles, to living beings, to conscious beings, to human beings, to spirit beings, to God. One might even feel the God-given reality of the Big Bang explosion of the millions of word-angels creating the universe enabling life, sacrifice, virtue, love, humanity, peace, freedom, and death without fear, with potential return to the pre-BigBang Eternal Statiumum. Only millions of “words” can identify with the “millions of angels” God created. To study the hylomorphism of WORDS is to witness the Big Bang from basic physics to transcendence and change. And one finds, not compelling, but overwhelming reason to live Aristotelian-Thomistic-hylomorphism. Nothing else fits the world better than angelic words having their matter and form impacts.
ADDENDUM: Words as “mind, matter, & nature...

LIVE ULTIMATE HUMAN PURPOSE!! LIVE THE LAST WORDS OF CHRIST---A POETIC (rap?) EFFORT of sorts... These are the eight ensoulment “paradigms” to win the “game” of life by following the “rules” of life. They constitute “LOVEOLUTION”-the revolution/evolution brought by Jesus through the Church. Sacramental living is to participate in the pre-Big Bang, pre-Universe Eternity-the Statiumum with God and the Hierarchy of Angels which give matter/form in space-time. (The “secular” paradigms are 2 thru 7 plus 11 & 12.)

Copyright 2016 Samuel A. Nigro, M.D.’s books “ANCIENT SECRETS”, “SOUL OF THE EARTH” and “EVERYBODY FOR EVERYBODY”:

(One of the LAST WORDS OF CHRIST can apply to every activity...

Learn eight ENSOULMENT paradigms (the Anthropic Schema) of the twelve bases of Christian living—

1-Sacramental, 2-universal, 3-scientific, 4-virtuous, 5-transcendental 6-T(Therapeutic.
7- basic physics existence per Stephen Hawking (matter)
8-[Mass Mantra: Life, Sacrifice, Virtue, Love, Humanity, Piety, Freedom, Death without Fear]
9-WORDS--ANGEL HIERARCHY: SERAPHIM-leadership, executive, matter/form, transcendentals (flames)
10-Gifts of the Holy Spirit
11-Ancient Greek Education components--Trivium, Quadrivium, Sports (my add as Univium)
12-Just Third Way--economics: matter management by Spirit

“Father, forgive them for they know not what they do.”

“Pater, dimitte illis, quia nesciunt, quid faciunt.”

Confess into a unity spectrum giving hope and identity...

{Selective Ignoring.

’spectrum’-a splitting of energy into position-time relationships.

[ Humanity]

THRONES-judiciary, free judgment, interrelating (love in charge)

Fear of (offending) the Lord--consequential reverence

Geometry

Ownership-worker & capital based democracy are Health, Education, Law Savings Accounts removing poverty

“This day thou shall be with me in Paradise.”

“Hodie mecum eris in Paradiso.”

Holy Order into a Life (the Father) dimension giving courage and being...

{Non-Reactive Listening,

“dimension”-space coordinates (length, width, height, weight, color, race, sex, geographic heredity) and time.

[ Virtue ]

PRINCIPALITIES-nations, states, cities, communities, time-bound political social (politics)

Fortitude--courage

Music

Capital Homesteading-participatory & global property rights/responsibilities

“Woman, behold thy son. World, behold your mother.”

“Mulier, ecce filius tuus. Omnes, ecce mulier tuus.”

Baptism into a dignity event giving faith and matter...

(Living Things are Precious.

“event”--a point in space-time of something certain that happens.

Cherubim-legislative, operational, wisdom, faith events (illuminating)

Understanding--comprehending and reasoning

Arithmetic

Binary Benefits-worker & capital; -savings with Health Savings Accounts removing poverty

“My God, why hast thou forsaken me?”

“Deus meus, Deus meus, utquid dereliquisti me?”

Holy Communion into an integrity field giving charity and truth...

(Subdued Spontaneity Non-Self Excluded.

“field”--a matrix existing throughout space and time.

[ Sacrifice ]

DOMINIONS-theology, reason, all creation, perfection (true freedom)

Piety--fidelity to duty

Rhetoric

Profit-consumption is production; -environmentally sound with Nature and Nature’s God

“I thirst.”

“Sitio.”

Matrimony into a Liberty (the Son) uncertainty giving temperance and good...

{Personhood...Conscious of Consciousness (C^2) for the Species.

“uncertainty” --accuracy of position is inverse to accuracy of movement.

[ Freedom ]

ARCHANGELS-family groups, individuals in groups linked in motion and position (real family)

Knowledge--in-depth familiarity

Logic

Labor-virtue

“It is finished.”

“Consummatum est.”

Extreme Unction into a spirit singularity giving justice and beauty...
(Detached Warmth and Gentleness.

“singularity”–a point of space-time curvature infinity at gravitational collapse–a recompression back to the Pre-Big Bang and a new “universe” of Heaven, Purgatory or hell.

[Death without Fear ]

POWERS-medicine, safekeeping, protective functioning, spatial infinity closeness, justice (all health)
Wisdom--sound judgment
Astronomy
Social Justice-feedback & Health Savings Accounts

“In thy hands I commend my spirit.”

“In manus tuas, Domine, commendo spiritum meum.”

Confirm into an identity quantum giving prudence and oneness–

{Affect Assistance.

“quantum”–the indivisible unit of giving and receiving energy.

[Peace ]

VIRTUES-law, ordering, operational order, spatial identities (strength to overcome)
Counsel--trustworthiness
Grammar
Participative Justice- input

“The earthquake finale.”

“Il Terremoto.”

Grace into Pursuing the Transcendentals (the Holy Spirit force giving holiness and being,

{Make that relationship count! The Flag of Mankind and:

“I pledge to treat all humanely by caring for and respecting other’s bodies; by understanding other’s minds but being true to myself without disrespect; and by accepting the emotions of others as I control my own. I will have mercy on others with gentle liberty and empathic justice for all.”

(Check out PeaceMercy.com)

“force”–that which affects matter particles—transcendental string or circles between human particles too.

[ Love ]

GUARDIAN ANGELS-self, individual guardians, genuine pursuit of happiness/transcendentals (self/ego)
The Holy Spirit
Sports (“sports” are a touch of genuine education and spirit)
Distributive Justice-output

“FALLEN” ANGELS-DEMONS-

-Antiwords: hateful, violent, manipulations, and suggestions to sin
-Lies
-Astrology and television, movies, electronic-celluloid press language of the foul, demeaning and entropy
-Fools with long words and large vocabularies not coinciding with transcendental existence
-willful entropy
-pride, covetousness, lust, anger, gluttony, envy, sloth
-socialism

References

2. Everybody For Everybody by Samuel A Nigro MD, chapter 2.