

Realism - absolute eyes
Nominalism - Absolute don't eyes

not unlike the stoics and their concept of reason and life from an earlier age (in the Ante-Nicene Period).

One need not be a genius to see that the "nominalist" could go so far as to deny the actual existence of God (although that is not a necessary postulate) while still talking persuasively about God. Hence they were immediately suspect as to intention.

One can also see that a moderate realist could make God "like us" and limit his definitions to our particular lot. One can recognize that doctrines might accordingly be fashioned by this sort of limitation.

But this is the problem in the scholastic age and it is still with us in various philosophic forms. The teacher in this course no longer gets very excited about newer philosophical expressions (he once did) since it is now plain in the cycle of history that it only takes one about twenty years to replace another. When things change that rapidly there is obviously a transient quality that should not bother us too much. I am glad, however, for those who have both insight and time as well as ability to work in these fields with understanding and precision.

Leading Voices

Realism - Anselm of Canterbury (<1109)

Nominalist - Rossellinus (<1125)

later: William of Occam <
Occam's Razor

Modified Realist - Thomas Aquinas <

To the Nominalist, the Bible becomes the Bible only if you think of it that way.

Realism tends to produce absolute absolutes.

Scholastic
Period:
Theology Proper

--the Trinity

B. Theology proper in the Scholastic Period

1. The Doctrine of the Trinity

a. Review: the concept was pronounced by Tertullian, et al, in challenging the Monarchian ideals that God was a single unit who represented himself in different forms. The Nicene and Constantinopolitan Creeds insist that the Godhead includes the Father, Son and Spirit. The economies of operation are not spelled out in detail although they are certainly hinted at.

b. The Trinity doctrine may be regarded, following this summary, as one of the "fixed" teachings in the church. The use of the Trinitarian formula in baptism, et al., gave the common idea utterance in the worship of the people and it cannot be doubted but what belief in it was a necessary part of orthodoxy. However, the scholastic age is an age of investigation and consideration on the "reality" question and it could only be a matter of time until someone tried to pin-point the trinity concept along with the ideas of reality. In the