

**PHILOSOPHICAL ANTHROPOLOGY:
AN INTRODUCTORY STUDY ON THE NATURE OF THE HUMAN PERSON**

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Class 4: Basic Philosophical Principles Continued; Begin: The Soul

I. Change

A. In General

1. Change is the movement (the reduction) of potency to act
2. A potency in the being is brought into act, is replaced by actuality
3. In change, the matter (which is in potency to receive a form) receives a new form.
 - a. Recall: Matter is to form as potency is to act.
4. In every change, something stays the same, viz., it endures, and something is different.
5. Only things with potency can change
6. When the change has occurred, the *potency has been actualized*.
7. We have potencies in accordance with our nature

B. Kinds of Change

1. Accidental Change – when a substance receives a new accidental form
 - a. after the change, the thing remains essentially the same as it was before the change.
2. Substantial Change - the thing after the change is substantially different from the thing before the change. The prime matter (the principle of potency) is what underlies the change. One substantial form is replaced by a new substantial form – thus, we have a new thing.

II. Prime Matter and Secondary Matter

- A. Prime Matter – is the matter which the substantial form actualizes and *thus makes to exist*. It is in potency to receive a substantial change. All matter is potency, the principle of receptivity...but prime matter is pure potency, pure possibility. It is the matter which substantial form actualizes. Prime matter is what underlies a substantial change; the matter loses one substantial form and gains another.
- B. Secondary Matter – any physical substance in which prime matter has been actualized by a substantial form. It is matter which exists because it has already received a substantial form; thus, it is in potency to undergo an accidental change.

III. The Soul

- A. The soul is the form of a living thing. Physical things are a unity of form and matter. Living, physical things are a unity of soul (form) and body (matter). This unity is absolutely key! Living, physical beings are not simply souls trapped in bodies.
- B. Three Kinds of Souls
 1. Vegetative soul
 2. Sensitive soul
 3. Rational Soul
- C. Recall: the soul is the first principle, or the *first act*, of the living being.
- D. How do we know what powers a soul has? By looking at the body. The soul expresses itself through the body.
 1. Power/faculty of the soul – the soul's ability to do something.
 2.

<u>Activities of the Body</u>	→	<u>Powers of the Soul</u>	→	<u>Nature of the Being</u>
Assimilating Food	→	Power of nourishing itself	→	Vegetative being
Smelling Food	→	Power of sensing	→	Sensitive being
Freely choosing to eat	→	Power of free will	→	Rational Being