

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

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Class 11: The Rational Appetite; Human Freedom

- I. The Human Will
- A. Just as the sense appetite is a response to sense knowledge, the rational appetite is a response to rational/intellectual knowledge
 - B. The proper object of the sense appetite is *sensible perceived good*. The proper object of the rational appetite is the true good, the universal good.
 - C. The rational appetite does not simply desire good things, but *the good itself*.
 - D. Everything we desire, we desire *for the sake of* the final end, which is happiness.
 - E. The will desires both the good and the end.
 - F. The will is
 - 1. Essentially passive, waiting for a good to be presented to it
 - 2. Also active – it produces its own act of desire/delight and can move other powers of the soul
 - G. Notion of necessity – a determination to one thing
[*Pro Memoria*: intrinsic principles are formal and material causes; extrinsic principles are efficient and final causes]
 - 1. Natural necessity – determination arising from an intrinsic principle
 - 2. Hypothetical necessity - determination arising from an extrinsic principle
 - 3. Violence – a determination arising from an extrinsic principle
 - H. The will *necessarily* seeks the universal good with a natural necessity.
 - I. The will is NOT subject to violence. NOTHING can force your will.
 - J. Is the will free?
 - 1. No: the will is *not* free to *not* will the good. It necessarily wills the good with a natural necessity. Furthermore, the will is *not* free *not* to will the universal good, that is, not to will happiness as its final end.
 - 2. Yes: the will is free when it is indifferent or undetermined toward several things. Again, we are not free to our ultimate end, but we are free with regard to the means to that end. We are not determined to one particular means. This is called *liberty of specification*. This is what we mean by *free choice of the will*, or as it is more commonly abbreviated, free will.
 - 3. The intellect and will, together operate to choose a good. This is called *liberum arbitrium*, free choice. This is the nature of human freedom. “The powers of intellect and will *unite* to form *one principle* for action in every choice, whether interior or exterior.” (Sister Mary Angelica)
- II. Human Freedom
- A. Freedom is ultimately about the means to the end.
 - B. The more virtuous we are, the more free we become.
 - C. We are free to will the good; we are not free (strictly speaking) to sin. Sin is an abuse of freedom.
 - D. Movers of the Will
 - 1. Intellect
 - 2. Sense appetites
 - 3. External things

4. God
- E. Acts of the Intellect
 1. Apprehension
 2. Judgment
 3. Counsel
 4. Last practical judgment
 5. Command
- F. Acts of the Will
 1. Simple volition
 2. Intention
 3. Consent
 4. Choice
 5. Command

