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Anselm on the Trinity

William E. Mann

In *The Cambridge Companion to Anselm*. Cambridge University Press (2004)

Abstract

Anselm examines and defends the doctrine of the Trinity in three works, the 'Monologion', 'On the Incarnation of the Word', and 'On the Procession of the Holy Spirit'. Using the 'Monologion' as a base, this essay connects Anselm's doctrine of God's metaphysical simplicity to his Trinitarian views. Anselm is concerned to avoid the heresies of Arianism, tritheism, and modalism. Because he regards the doctrine as transcending the powers of human reason and thus incapable of being proved, his argumentation proceeds by adopting the analogies of memory, understanding, and will used earlier by Augustine, and by modifying Augustine's analogy of water as headwaters, river, and drinking water

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