

NOTE FOR SIXTH BOOK OF WISDOM

In the first reading of the *Sixth Book of Wisdom*, Aristotle distinguishes wisdom from all other forms of reasoned out understanding or reasoned out knowledge. At the same time, he shows how wisdom differs from natural philosophy and mathematics in the way it defines. We see that wisdom differs both in its subject from those of natural philosophy and mathematics and in how it considers its subject.

And after recalling in the beginning of the second reading the senses of *being* distinguished in the Fifth Book of Wisdom, he considers two of them (being by happening and being as true) briefly in the rest of the readings in this book (readings two through four) and shows why they are not the main kinds of being to be considered in wisdom (which main kinds are being according to the figures of predication and being as act and ability). The main kinds of being will be considered in Book Seven and Eight (which are chiefly about substance) and Book Nine (which is about ability and act).

In readings two and three of this book, he considers being by happening, and in the fourth and last reading, he considers being as true.

We can see, then, that Aristotle is determining the subject of wisdom and how that subject should be considered before beginning the consideration of being as being. This is in accord with what was taught in the fifth reading of the Second Book. We should know the road to follow and the way of going forward in any reasoned out knowledge before we set out into that reasoned out knowledge.

Following Thomas's exposition or laying out of the first reading in Book Six, we have placed part of his exposition of Boethius's *de Trinitate* where Boethius, following Aristotle, has distinguished the forms or kinds of looking reasoned out understanding and their ways of going forward. Although Thomas has explained much of this in laying out the text of Aristotle, he has given us his most complete consideration of these matters in this exposition of the text of Boethius and the questions he has developed for them.

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