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Edward Grant

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Edward Grant : God and Reason in the Middle Ages before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised God and Reason in the Middle Ages:

6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Natural philosophy embedded in theologyBy Jordan BellThis book is a survey of the teaching and writing of scholars at medieval universities. Grant has written many papers and books on medieval science; his "A Source Book in Medieval Science" is comprehensive and is especially good. Because Grant has such a magisterial knowledge about scholastic science, he is unusually qualified to make general remarks

about the work of scholastics. The book contains uncommonly many block quotations from secondary literature. This was particularly noticeable with subjects like law and medicine, about which Grant does not have the same knowledge he does about natural philosophy. However, if you're writing a survey and want to mention topics of which you do not have mastery, then it is indeed more useful to the reader and more candid to give well chosen quotations from well chosen authors than to give an inadequate presentation yourself. Grant shows many examples of natural philosophy embedded in writings of medieval theologians. A prominent example of this is the discussion of the infinite. If God is not constrained by laws of the natural world (namely, God is supernatural), then at best God is constrained by logical rules, and this led to theologians talking about problems detached from whether they are consistent with natural laws, but merely whether they are logically possible. For example, Gregory of Rimini argues that God can create an infinity of angels in an hour by creating one angel in the first half of the hour, another angel in the in the first half of what remains, another angel in the first half of what remains, etc., and that at the end of the hour there will be infinitely many angels. It is easy to dismiss questions of this type as frivolous, and indeed if one thinks angels are the point of the question then it may be silly. But the significance of these writings is that they developed difficult concepts like the infinite and developed ways of talking precisely about these concepts. It would be similarly thoughtless to attack economists for writing about the production of widgets.

0 of 2 people found the following review helpful. great, and very happy. By Stonegood . OK. i receive it very fast. I quite enjoy this product. I like to collect kitchen utensils but usually shell out for pots and pans and buy my knives at thrift stores. For the price, this product has been super useful. send it to my grandson, 6 of 33 people found the following review helpful. god and reason in the middle ages By John Estrada Excellent to investigate about the debates between philosophers and theologians during the late middle ages.

Between 1100 and 1600, the emphasis on reason in the learning and intellectual life of Western Europe became more pervasive and widespread than ever before in the history of human civilization. Of crucial significance was the invention of the university around 1200, within which reason was institutionalized and where it became a deeply embedded, permanent feature of Western thought and culture. It is therefore appropriate to speak of an Age of Reason in the Middle Ages, and to view it as a forerunner and herald of the Age of Reason that was to come in the seventeenth century. The object of this study is twofold: to describe how reason was manifested in the curriculum of medieval universities, especially in the subjects of logic, natural philosophy and theology; and to explain how the Middle Ages acquired an undeserved reputation as an age of superstition, barbarism, and unreason.

"...Grant's book will produce some interesting future discussions. Inside and outside the classroom, it promises to be a useful catalyst for rethinking and debating a period often considered marginal." ISIS "Grant's argument is sound and convincing. Furthermore, his work is strengthened by a keen ability for precision and detail as well as willingness to engage earlier and contemporary historians of early Christianity." American Historical "...the book remains a rich resource for examples of intellectual life in medieval universities, and succeeds in its purpose in shedding light on the medieval origins of modern science." Sixteenth Century Journal "Grant's subversive history is persuasive, enlightening, and copiously documented." - Brian J. Shanley, O.P., The Catholic University of America