

Aquinas' distinction between *abstractio* and *separatio* in *Super De Trinitate* q. 5 a. 3¹

Alfonso Quartucci
University of Toronto

Abstract: Aquinas' *Super De Trinitate* q. 5 a. 3 is a well-known article for its distinction between *abstractio* and *separatio*, and especially for the connection it draws between *separatio* and metaphysics. This connection, scholarship has argued, would be due to the foundational role that *separatio* is supposed to play with respect to metaphysics, so that the possibility itself of metaphysics as a distinct science would be grounded on the possibility of *separatio*. The present article is meant to discuss the possibility of *separatio* and the reasons behind its connection to metaphysics against the background of a wider analysis of *Super De Trinitate* q. 5 a. 3. It falls into four parts: [I] after a survey of scholarship, [II] it presents Aquinas' text and [III] focuses on a particular point emerging from it, [IV] drawing in the end some conclusions about *separatio*.