The Mystery of the Trinity and New Evangelization

Fr Giulio Maspero

Objectives:

(1) a first, more theoretical dimension is the review of the treatise on the Trinity, but from an eminently practical perspective



(2), because the goal is re-reading it from the perspective of the proclamation of the Gospel in today's world. The aim is to work together on how to present the doctrine of the Trinity, showing its significance and relevance for the lives of our contemporaries.

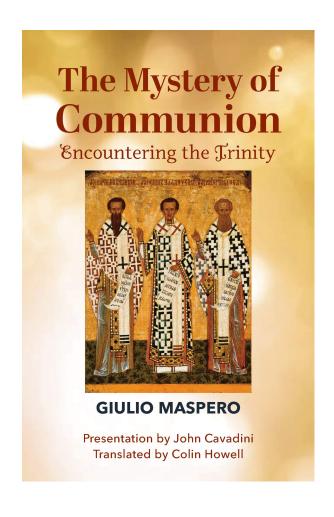


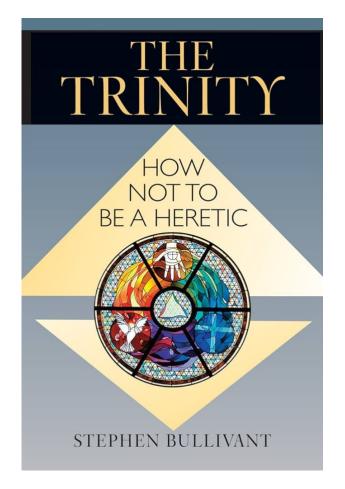
Method:

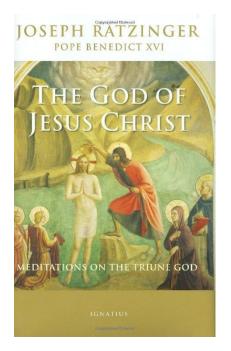
The method will be eminently dialogical. The teacher will provide a methodological framework, which will be justified in the course of the lectures. In this way the students will be able to reread together the different parts of the treatise and discuss how they can be translated in the light of the existential questions they touch upon.

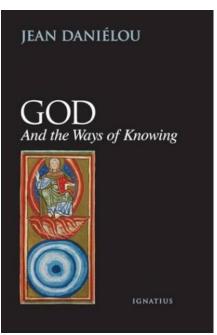


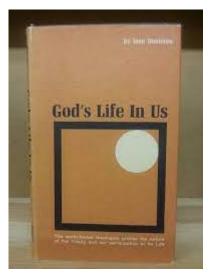
- G. Maspero, *The Mystery of Communion. Encountering the Trinity* (South Bend, IN: St. Augustine's Press, 2021)
- S. Bullivant, The Trinity: How Not to Be a Heretic (New York; Mahwah, NJ: Paulist Press, 2015)

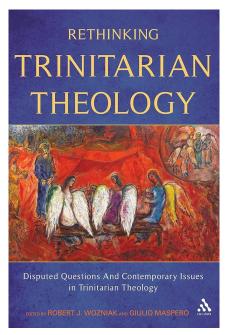












- J. Ratzinger, *The God of Jesus Christ, Meditations on the Triune God* (San Francisco, CA: Ignatius Press, 2018)
- J. Daniélou, *God and the Ways of Knowing* (San Francisco, CA: Ignatius Press, 2003)
- J. Daniélou, *God's Life in Us* (Denville: Dimension Books, 1969)
- G. Maspero R.J. Wozniak (Eds.),
 Rethinking Trinitarian Theology:
 Disputed Questions And
 Contemporary Issues in
 Trinitarian Theology (LondonNew York: T&T Clark, 2012)

G. Maspero, *The Mystery of Communion. Encountering the Trinity* (South Bend, IN: St. Augustine's Press, 2021)

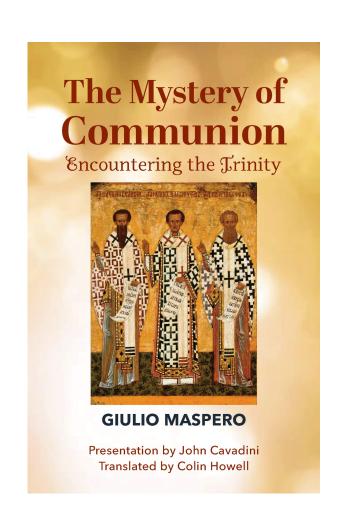
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Presentation

Preface

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- 1. The Word of the God of the Covenant
- 2. The Word of the Triune God: Jesus
- 3. The Response to the Word: The Faith of the Church
- 4. The Development of Thought: Theology
- 5. The Trinitarian View of Man and the World
- 6. Conclusion: Mary and the Trinity



S. Bullivant, The Trinity: How Not to Be a Heretic (New York; Mahwah, NJ: Paulist Press, 2015)

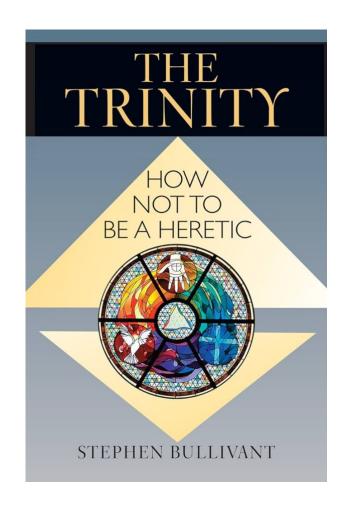
Contents

Introduction: Supreme Simplicity

- 1. More Than Words
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- 3. Rereading the Old Testament
- 4. God à la Modes
- 5. True God from True God
- 6. Why Not Three Gods?
- 7. Three What?

Afterword: How to Be an Ecumenist

Further Reading



Tentative schedule:

May 20th

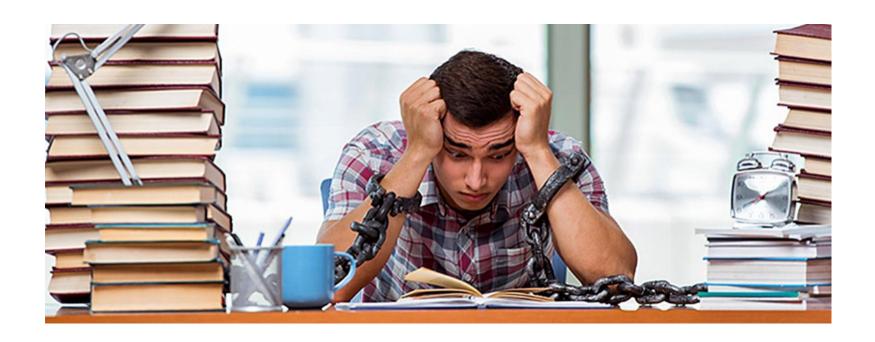
Feb 12th	Introduction: Narrative and the Trinity
Feb 19th	The relational approach
Feb 26th	First Testament issues (violence, religions, covenant)
Mar 4th	The novelty of the New Testament
Mar 11th	Heresies in us
Mar 18th	Fathers of the Church: why they are the key
Apr 8th	Middle Age and Contemporary Theology
Apr 15th	The Personal Revolution
Apr 22nd	Fatherhood, Filiation and Love
Apr 29th	Missions and Human Existence: Time, Story and History
May 6th	Mary and the Trinity: the way to Ecumenism and Spiritual life
May 13th	Final Q&A (and proposals)

Final exam

Evaluation:

Class Participation + Final Exam:

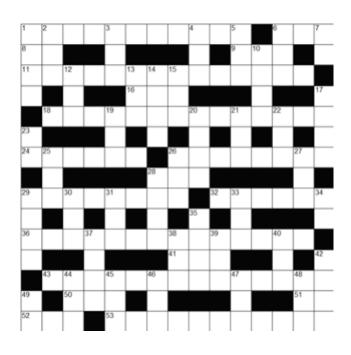
the test will consist of providing a practical example of translation of a doctrinal element of the treatise in terms of the new evangelisation.



Mystery of knowledge (it is unveiled)



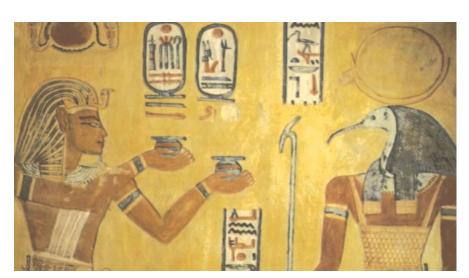


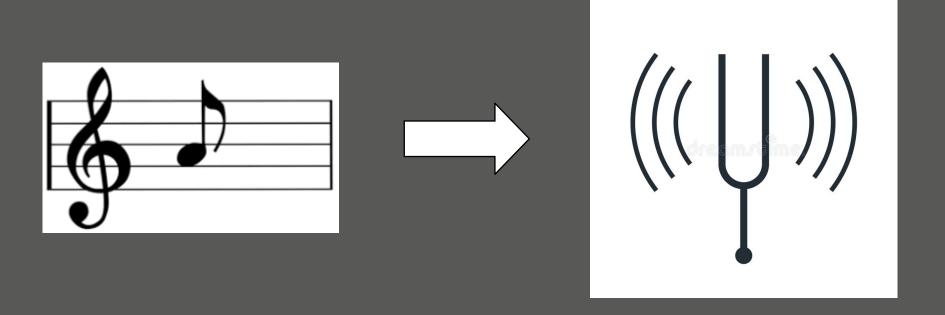


Mystery of being (it is revealed)

Now you, being the father of writing, out of affection have said the very opposite of what it is worth. For the discovery of writing will have the effect of producing forgetfulness in the souls of those who learn it, because by trusting in writing they will become accustomed to remembering from without by means of foreign signs, and not from within and by themselves [...] for they, becoming hearers of many things through you without instruction, will believe themselves to be expert in many things, whereas, as is mostly the case, they will not know them; and it will be very difficult to converse with them, because they have become bearers of opinion rather than wise.

Plato, *Phaedrus* 274c - 275b





Semantics

Syntax











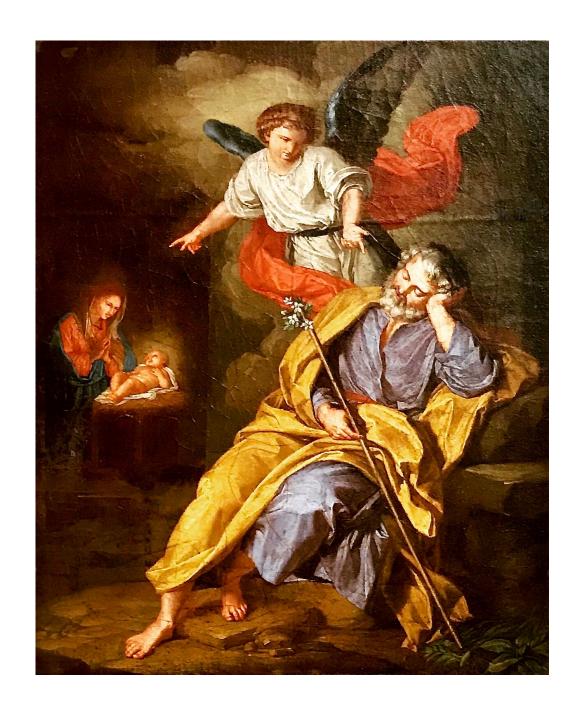


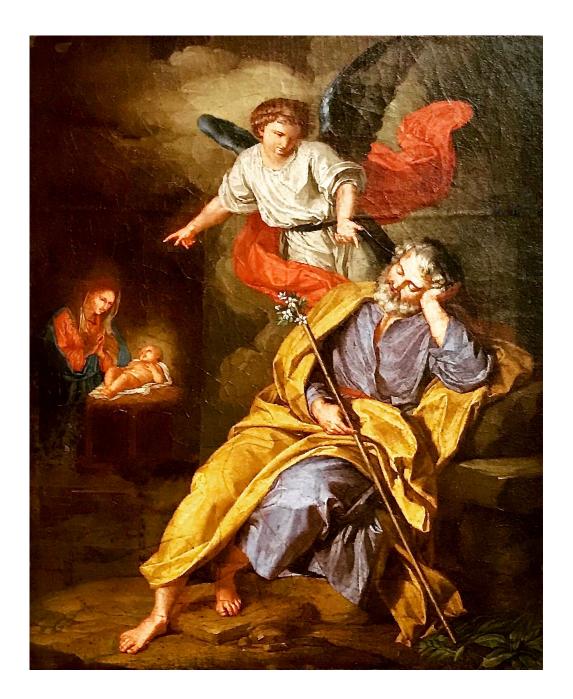
Semantics

Syntax

Philo Semantics Syntax Religion

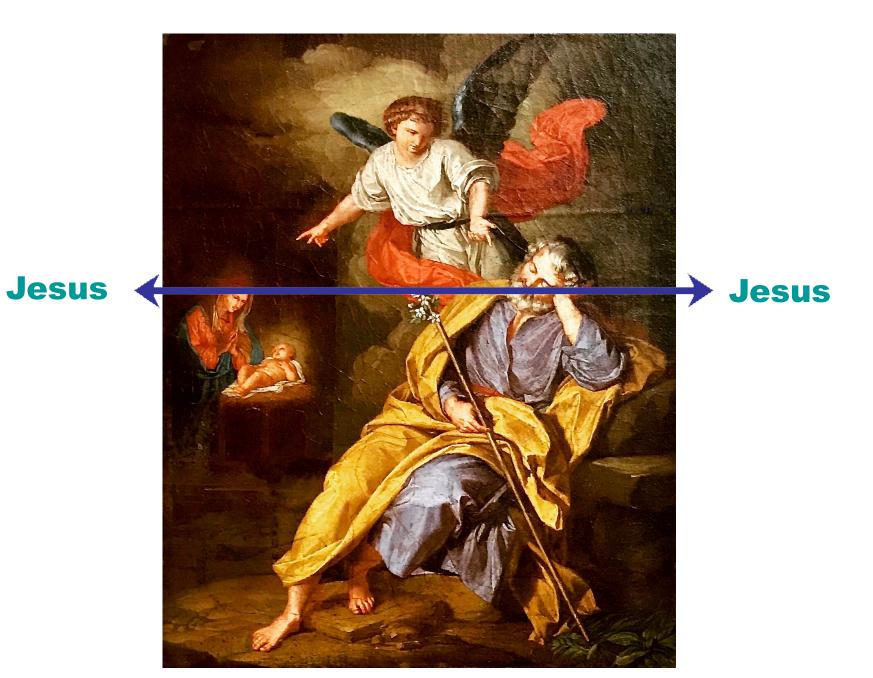






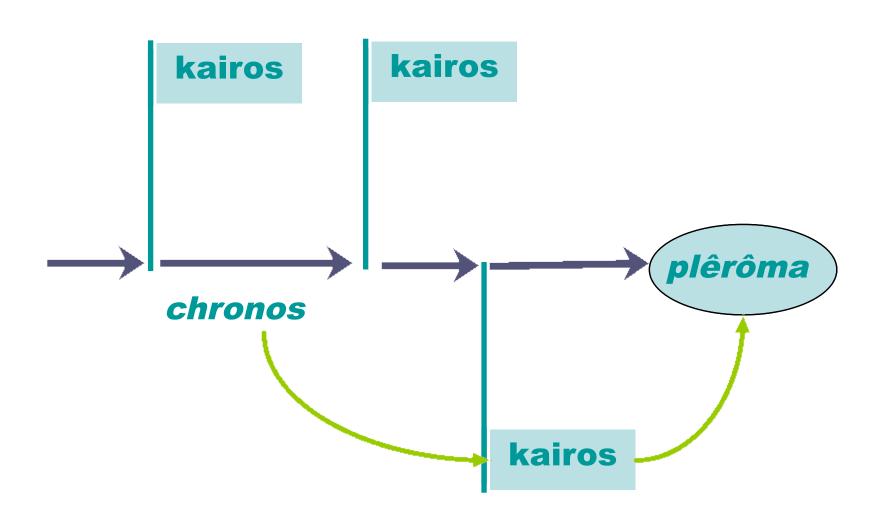
Jesus

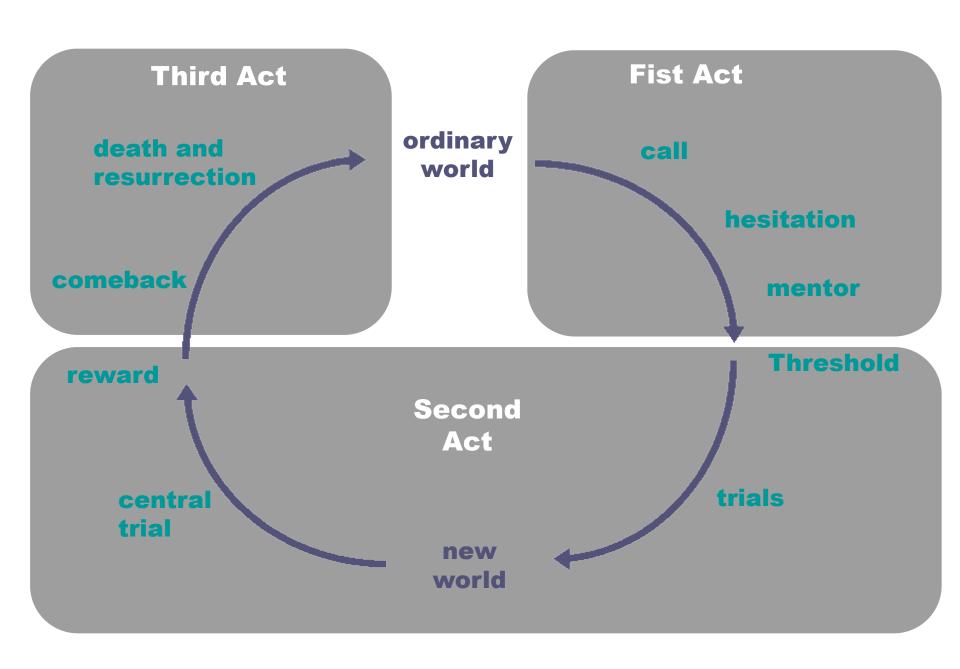
Jesus



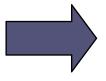






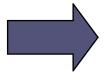


First Act



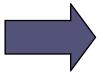
Identity

Second Act



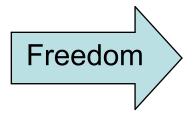
Difference

Third Act



Relation

Desires



Infinite

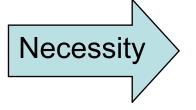
Needs



Finite

How the idols work

Desires



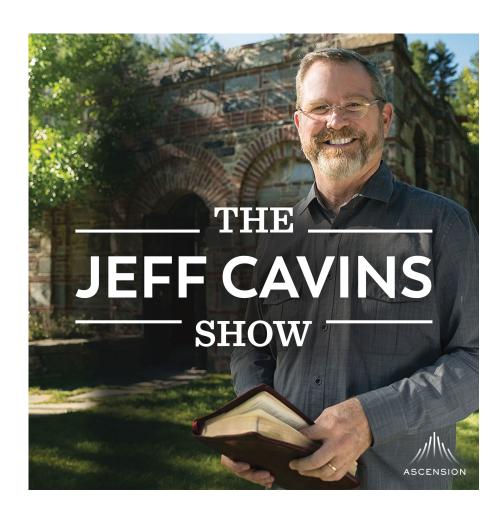
Finite



BIBLE

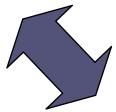
PROJECT





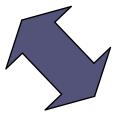










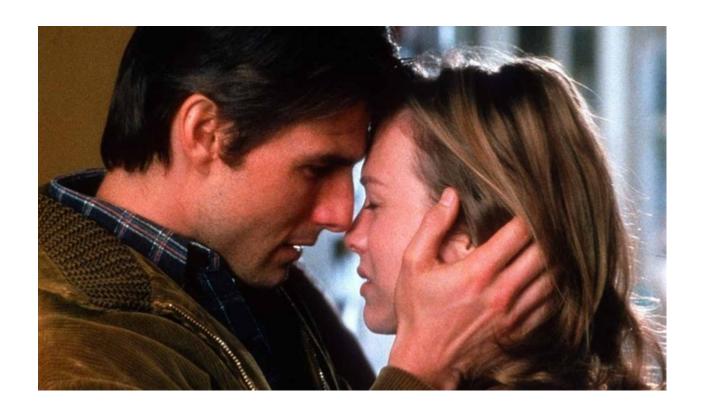




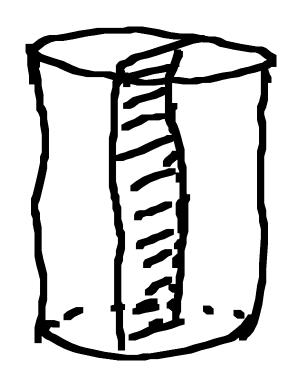


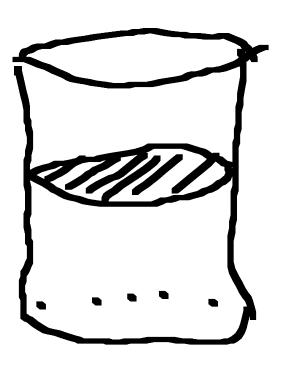


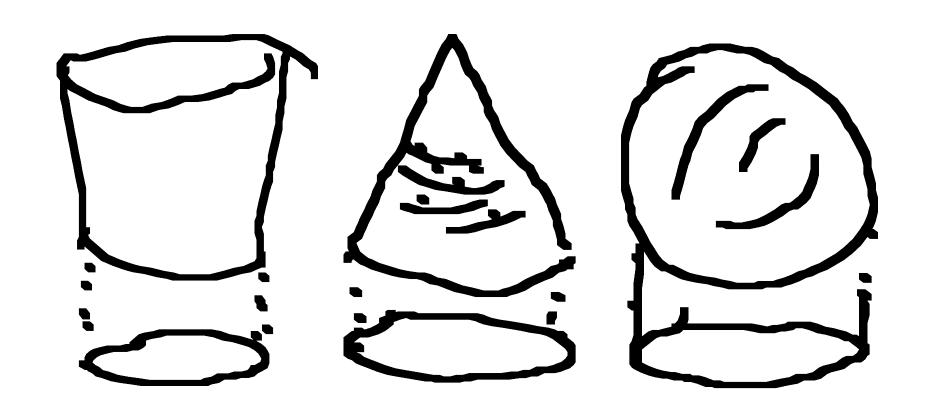
Jerry MaGuire (1997)

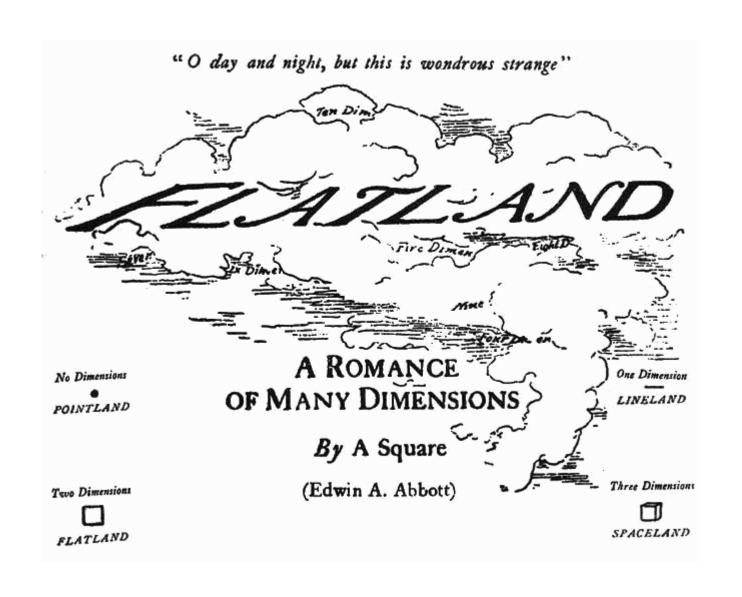


You complete me...









The Inhabitants of SPACE IN GENERAL

And H. C. IN PARTICULAR

This Work is Dedicated

By a Humble Native of Flatland

In the Hope that

Even as he was Initiated into the Mysteries

Of THREE Dimensions

Having been previously conversant

With ONLY Two

So the Citizens of that Celestial Region

May aspire yet higher and higher

To the Secrets of Four Five or even Six Dimensions

Thereby contributing

To the Enlargement of THE IMAGINATION

And the possible Development

Of that most rare and excellent Gift of Modesty

Among the Superior Races

Of Solid Humanity



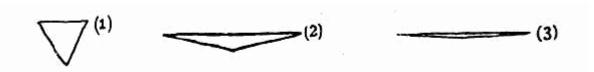
by getting idea But some (σκιαγραφοῦντες) of what concerns Him [God] from the realities surrounding Him, we piece together (συλλέγομεν) a dark and uncertain image from different things. In our opinion, the best theologian is not the one who has understood the whole, for the limit does not contain the whole, but he is the one who has been able to imagine more than others and unite within himself more (συναγάγη) the mental image of truth or a shadow (ἀποσκίασμα) of it or whatever we would like to call it.

I call our world Flatland, not because we call it so, but to make its nature clearer to you, my happy readers, who are privileged to live in Space.

Imagine a vast sheet of paper on which straight Lines, Triangles, Squares, Pentagons, Hexagons, and other figures, instead of remaining fixed in their places, move freely about, on or in the surface, but without the power of rising above or sinking below it, very much like shadows—only hard and with luminous edges—and you will then have a pretty correct notion of my country and countrymen. Alas, a few years ago, I should have said "my universe": but now my mind has been opened to higher views of things.

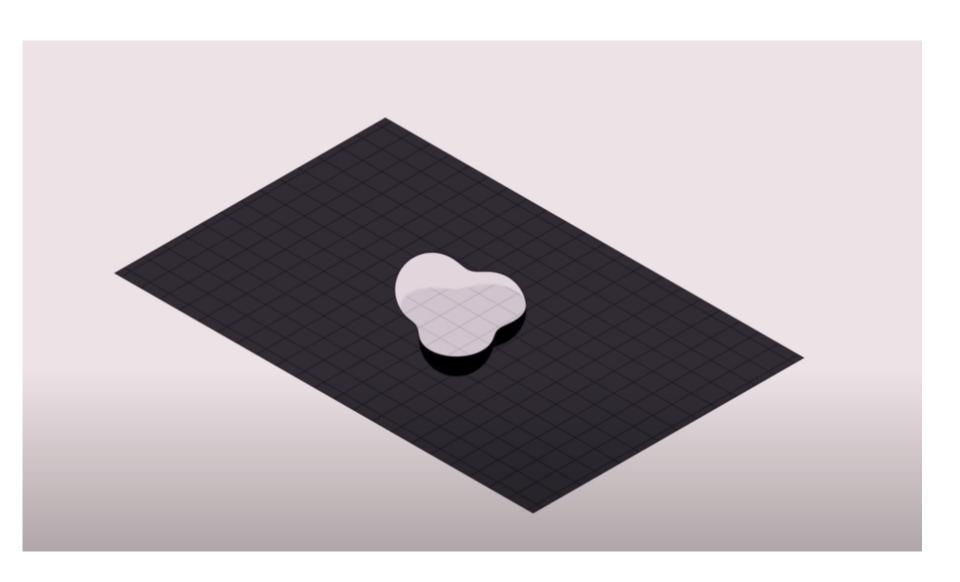
In such a country, you will perceive at once that it is impossible that there should be anything of what you call a "solid" kind; but I dare say you will suppose that we could at least distinguish by sight the Triangles, Squares, and other figures, moving about as I have described them. On the contrary, we could see nothing of the kind, not at least so as to distinguish one figure from another. Nothing was visible, nor could be visible, to us, except Straight Lines; and the necessity of this I will speedily demonstrate.

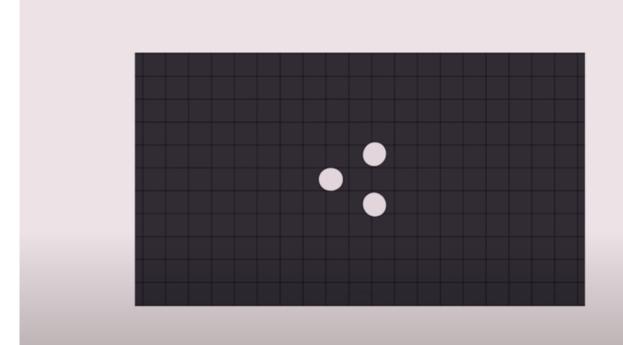




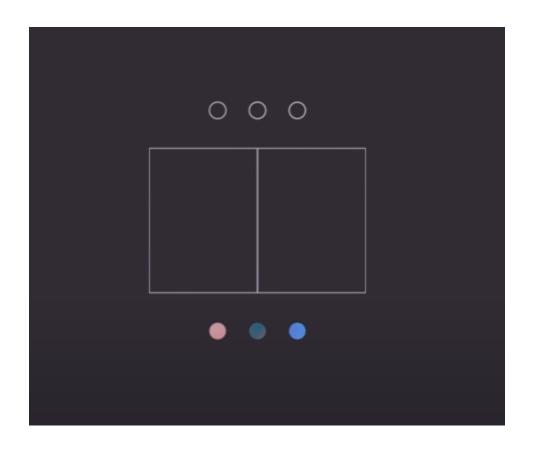








Attributes Spirit Son of Man



Jesus Father Spirit

So, I've got a question that's always bothered me. The Bible says there is one God.

But, in other parts of the Bible, God is three: Father, Son and Spirit.

How can it be both?

Yeah, this is a question that has mystified people for thousands of years.

And, while we can't fully explain it, I think we can better understand what it is that we can't fully understand.

What do you mean?

But, this isn't just a philosophy puzzle.

To describe God as a Tri-unity is to claim that the universe is held together by an eternal community of love.

Which is something that I can't really understand.

But, the God of the Bible isn't a being that you understand.

The point is to know, and be known, by this God. So that we

The point is to know, and be known, by this God, So that we can participate in His love.