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Angelology

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ANGEOLOGY

When Robert Grosseteste comments on the angels and whether more than one might coexist in the same place or body, he seems to think such fine points are important because they test the seriousness of our preoccupations, in this case with the business of the spirit, of spirits generally, and the spirit of God. The main idea posits medial forms between God and ourselves, and furthermore appropriates the model of the soul as mover of the body, coextensive as the body and the soul appear to be, supposing here the soul’s reality, which was hard to question in the 13th century, though equally impossible to prove, yet Robert argues the relationship of angels to material elements as casually as a man walking his dog, showing us angels everywhere at once, numberless angels all over the place impinging on this world from the other world, as the eye receives a vision of bare trees mantled with mist, or the nostrils catch the savor of a loved woman’s delectable inner thigh from mounds of mown grass in a stranger’s yard.