

**PHILOSOPHICAL ANTHROPOLOGY:  
AN INTRODUCTORY STUDY ON THE NATURE OF THE HUMAN PERSON**

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Class 6: The Sensitive Soul

I. Sensitive Powers of the Soul

- A. Sensation—this is the power, the capacity to take in the material world in an immaterial way. The soul, by means of the body, acquires sense knowledge of the world around it. This requires both the body and the soul.
- B. Appetition—animals have what is called “sense appetition” or “a sense appetite.” Appetition is the natural desire of a being towards its proper goal.
- C. Locomotion—this is the power to be able to move from one place to another by one’s own power

II. The Power of Sensation

A. Introductory Notes

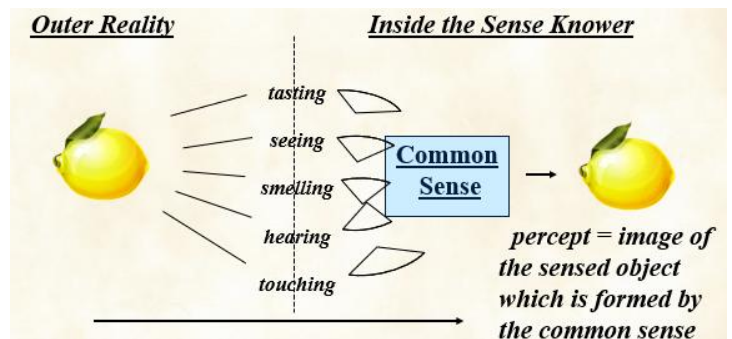
- 1. We have five external senses and four internal senses. With these senses, we take in the material world outside of us in an immaterial way. Our soul, by means of our body, acquires a certain kind of knowledge through the act of sensation. This knowledge is called sense knowledge.
- 2. Feeling is a cognitive act. Cognition. Most simply, cognition is knowledge or the power or process of knowing. More specifically, it is anything *directly* known. When we speak a cognitive act, we mean that it is the ability to receive in a representational and in an immaterial way the likeness of the world as it has been brought into us through the senses.

B. External Senses – Passive Powers

- 1. Each external sense has a proper object. This is the *end* or the *goal* of that particular power. The proper object of:
  - a. Sight → color
  - b. Smell → odor
  - c. Hearing → sound
  - d. Taste → savor/ flavor
  - e. Touch → the tactual (pressure, temperature)
- 2. Each external sense is tied to a bodily organ (on the external of the body). This means that the sense power, which again, is a power of the soul, requires the bodily organ in order to function.

C. Internal Senses (tied to the bodily organ of the brain)

- 1. **Common Sense**—the power of the soul which puts together the sense images which the external senses bring in. None of the external senses sense the unified entity. They cannot sense the whole as a whole; they can each only sense their discrete part of the whole (i.e. the color, the odor, etc.).



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- a. The common sense creates the **percept** which is the image of the sensed object formed by the common sense. This sense image is just the diverse sense data 'tied' together
2. Imagination—the internal sense which allows us to know objects even when not present.
  - a. Using the information from the common sense, the imagination creates an image called a ***phantasm***; while less vivid than the percept, this image is retained in the consciousness of the animal even if it is not in the physical presence of what it is sensing. So the phantasm is the immaterial image that is composed by the senses together, not acting separately, but collating their perceptions.
3. Memory—the power of the soul that enables us to know the past as the past, to sense time or to situate images from the imagination in time. It deals with an absent object, as does the imagination, but with the addition of it being in the 'past.'
4. Estimative/Cogitative Sense
  - a. Estimative – in animals, this is the power to estimate whether an object sensed is helpful/advantageous or harmful. It is akin to what we might call instinct.
  - b. Cogitative -- In man, the estimative sense is called the cogitative sense since it is affected by reason.