Synopsis

ON THE PRINCIPLES OF NATURE

St. Thomas Aquinas — to Brother Sylvester

- **PRINCIPLES OF NATURE**
  - *I.* **Act & Potency**
    - **Act** — *perfection actually possessed (= form)*
    - *Potency*
      - **to substantial being** — *matter from which — prime matter*
      - **to accidental being** — *matter in which — the subject*
  - *II.* **Three Principles**
    - **Matter** — *essential — in being and becoming*
    - **Form** — *essential — in being and becoming*
    - **Privation** — *accidental — in becoming only*
  - *III.* **Four Causes**
    - *Intrinsic*
      - **Material** — *that out of which a thing is made*
      - **Formal** — *that by which it is what it is*
    - *Extrinsic*
      - **Efficient** — *that by which the thing is brought about*
      - **Final** — *that for the sake of which — cause of causes*
  - *IV.* **Ten Categories**
    - **Substance** — *what is it? — the subject of the nine accidents*
    - **Nine Accidents** — *Quantity · Quality · Relation · Action · Passion · Where · When · Posture · Habit*
  - *V.* **Predication**
    - **Univocal** — *same name, same nature*
    - **Equivocal** — *same name, different nature*
    - *Analogical*
      - **to one end** — *"healthy" — of urine, body, food*
      - **to one agent** — *"medical" — of physician, instruments*
      - **to one subject** — *"being" — of substance & accidents → not a genus*

Synthesis from St. Thomas Aquinas, On the Principles of Nature, chs. 1–6