



Part 1 (Day 1)

Preface - Vincent asks for Antony's counsel in the face of great suffering.
Antony's first counsel is: seek comfort within, from God.

Chapter 1 - Antony explains why the help of pagan philosophers is insufficient.

2 - Antony states that all spiritual comfort must be based on the foundation of faith.

3 - *1st necessary cause of comfort*: the desire to be comforted by God. Antony distinguishes who can and cannot be comforted.

4 - Suffering is a means to acquire a good mind of longing for God.

5 - The necessary help which a friend (like Antony) provides: counsel and prayer

6 - Comfort requires more than desiring the removal of the suffering; it requires trust that God works all to the best.

7 - *2nd cause of comfort*: knowledge that all suffering is or can be medicinal, or better than medicinal

8 - Vincent complains that this last counsel is "short and brief...obscure and dark."
Antony explains these three kinds of tribulation: those that are
(1) medicinal for our own faults

9 - (2) medicinal for past sins or for preventing future ones

10 - (3) better than medicinal by increasing merit

11 - *3rd cause of comfort*: knowledge that we can earn merit here, but not in purgatory

12 - Vincent questions purgatory; Antony responds.

13 - *4th cause of comfort*: knowledge that the cross is needed for heaven and that continual prosperity is a grave danger

14 - Vincent objects to Antony's "harsh" position about prosperity. Antony responds.

15 - Vincent raises four more objections to Antony's argument about the dangers of prosperity.

16 - Antony defines tribulation again and answers Vincent's first and third objections.

17 - Antony answers Vincent's 2nd objection; explains how suffering draws us to God.

18 - Antony explains that some seek "mad medicines" (1138.18) when suffering.

19 - Vincent objects: why give such preeminence to suffering? Antony argues that suffering is far better than prosperity.

20 - Antony explains that suffering is a "gracious gift of God" (1143.51).

God as chief comforter, 1112
storms of tribulations, 1112.51
treacle against poison, 1114.17

God as great Physician, 1114.83

garden of the soul, 1116.5

stick, when drowning, 1116.73

1117

1118

rule of reason, 1119.40

tribulation as medicine, 1120.57

sure medicine, 1121.31

wholesome medicine, 1122.14

lower sails in blasts of pride;
lecherous lover, 1123.8; 13

Ant. will treat persecution last, 1124
conscience's spiritual joy, 1125.50
joy in merit, reward, 1126.8

1126

Savior weeps, doesn't laugh, 1128

lazy slug late for school, 1130.40

1130

new definition of trib., 1132.38

tempest image, 1135.60

pillows, cards; King Saul, 1137

Christ's agony, 1139.57
importance of patience, 1140-1

no murmuring, 1143.20