

STEVEN J. JENSEN
THE HUMAN PERSON
A BEGINNER'S THOMISTIC PSYCHOLOGY

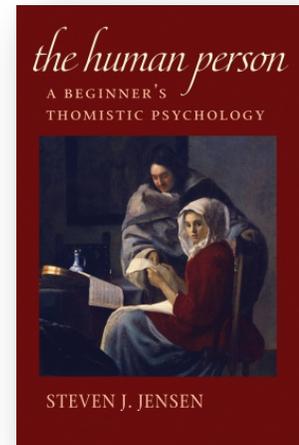
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The Human Person presents a brief introduction to the human mind, the soul, immortality, and free will. While delving into the thought of Thomas Aquinas, it addresses contemporary topics, such as skepticism, mechanism, animal language research, and determinism. Steven J. Jensen probes the primal questions of human nature. Are human beings free or determined? Is the capacity to reason distinctive to human beings or do animals also have some share of reason? Have animals really been taught to use language?

The Human Person touches on topics that bear upon the very fabric of the universe. Are human beings merely well-ordered collections of chemicals or do they have a soul that gives them life and understanding? Is there any element in human beings that survives death? Can human minds get in touch with the objective world or just forever dwell in the domain of their subjective experiences? The book closes by considering the most fundamental question of all: are human beings merely cosmic accidents with no purpose or is there some meaning to human life?

In this book, beginners of philosophy will learn the wonders of their own nature by studying Aquinas's thought on the human person.

STEVEN J. JENSEN is the author of *Sin: A Thomistic Psychology*; *Knowing the Natural Law: From Precepts and Inclinations to Deriving Oughts*; *Living the Good Life: A Beginner's Thomistic Ethics* and *Good and Evil Actions: A Journey Through Saint Thomas Aquinas* (all CUA Press).

PRAISE

"This is an important book because it examines an important but complex topic and because it examines that topic in a manner accessible to any reader wishing to have a better understanding of what it is to be a human being. Steven Jensen is unafraid to tackle difficult topics, and his guidance through them is superb. As he recognizes, if we don't know the kind of being we are, we will almost certainly go desperately wrong in numerous ways. *The Human Person* provides a firm foundation and

a protection against many of these errors."—Gary Atkinson, author of *Our Search with Socrates for Moral Truth*

"Steven Jensen has given us philosophy just as it ought to be: reflection grounded in a rich soil of everyday experience, which is expressed in ordinary language used with nuance and precision and which ascends by accurate reasoning to the noblest truths. *The Human Person* is a trustworthy trail guide for the path to self-knowledge."—Christopher Blum, The Augustine Institute

"Jensen's introduction to Thomistic psychology comes at a time when we must be reminded not only of who we are but of what we are. *The Human Person* does that with admirable clarity and erudition, not only by drawing on St. Thomas's profound teaching on human nature, but also by bringing it into fruitful dialogue with contemporary thought. It is a book that should find its way into the classroom and the library of everyone who cares to recover the truth about the human person in an age that has lost its moral bearings."—Giuseppe Butera, Providence College

"Presents Aquinas's account of the human person in an approachable, comprehensive, sound manner—the scholarship is excellent, well grounded in Aquinas and well informed about the central contemporary disputes and how Aquinas's account would bear on these disputes helpfully."—Tom Cavanaugh, author of *Hippocrates' Oath and Asclepius' Snake*