

The Gnoseological Argument

A Comparison between Anselm of Canterbury
and John of Ripa

Luca Vettorello

Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore, Milano

Abstract: Anselm of Canterbury's *unum argumentum* has been interpreted from the beginning as an ontological argument: a detailed textual analysis of the *Proslogion* will show that this interpretation is misleading and inexact; we will show, instead, its authentic structure of logical-gnoseological argument. This misunderstanding has influenced almost all philosophers in history, with the exception of John of Ripa, who was able to recognize and enhance the true logical and gnoseological aspect of the Anselmian *argumentum*.

Keywords: Anselm of Canterbury, John of Ripa, Ontological Argument, Gnoseological Argument, *Proslogion*, *Unum Argumentum*, God's Existence, Metaphysics.