

Immutatio vitalis

Una rilettura della visione beatifica
in Giovanni da Ripa

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Abstract: The Western Theological Tradition, from the Church Fathers to the end of Scholasticism, has identified the formula “beatific vision” as the most suitable expression pointing out the blessed state of immortal souls after separation from the body, a state that will be completed with the final resurrection of the body. Nowadays, instead, in order to point out the new life of the just in the beatific union, we use the expression “eternal life”. Analysing John of Ripa’s Commentary on the *Sentences*, we can find the locution *immutatio vitalis*, i.e. a modification of the blessed souls’ perceptive power by the immutable force of the infinite divine essence. This modification, which does not involve any “information” of the soul, leads to a new interpretation of the notion of “beatific vision”. In this frame, Ripa’s theoretical achievement about divine immensity stands out, a distinguishing feature from Duns Scotus’s infinity. Furthermore, in his Commentary, John of Ripa also draws attention to the papal decretal *Ad nostrum*, a condemnation of the *Free Spirit* movement, focusing on themes concerning the relationship between grace and eternal beatitude.

Key words: Beatific Vision, Eternal Life, Immensity, Infinity, Vital Immutation, The Decretal *Ad nostrum* and the Blessed Soul.