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# The Question of Human Animality in Heidegger and Aquinas

DOMINICAN SCHOOL  
OF PHILOSOPHY & THEOLOGY



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## PRESENTED BY:

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WITH A RESPONSE BY JUSTIN GABLE, OP

Heidegger thinks of us humans as Dasein, those entities to whom the things of the world are available in their intelligibility. Aquinas thinks of us as humans, animals with reason to whom the things of the world are available in their intelligibility. At stake for Aquinas and Heidegger is the ontological difference and, beyond that, for Aquinas, the God-world difference. Heidegger denies our animality, because he thinks it compromises our distinctness; Aquinas affirms our animality while transfiguring it to preserve our distinctness.

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