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## *Dialectica Monacensis* (Anonymous, Twelfth Century)

### On the Division of Science

As we are going to deal with dialectic, which is, as it were, the pathway to all the other arts, at the beginning of this treatise we provide the division of science.

We should know, therefore, that human nature is plagued by three scourges. The first is ignorance, on the part of the soul, the second is indigence, on the part of the body, and the third is vice, on the part of the substance composed of these two. Against these plagues three remedies were given to man: against ignorance the capability to acquire the liberal sciences, against indigence the mechanical arts, and against vices the capability to acquire virtues.

Furthermore, science is divided into rational, natural and moral philosophy. Natural philosophy is divided into metaphysics, mathematics and physics. Metaphysics or theology deals with God and with the supreme and divine substances and things, and the principles of other sciences.

Mathematics is divided into arithmetic, music, geometry and astronomy. . . .

Physics is handed down to us in Aristotle's *Physics*, *On Heaven and Earth*, *On Coming to Be and Passing Away*, *Meteorology*, *On Plants and Animals*, *On the Soul*, *On Sleeping and Being Awake*. The first of these deals with moving bodies absolutely speaking, the second with bodies that move by locomotion, the third is about the generation, corruption and mixing of bodies absolutely speaking, the fourth is about their generation and corruption in the air, the fifth about plants, the sixth about animals, the seventh about the human soul, insofar as it is naturally connected to the body and about its powers, and the eighth about sleeping and being awake.

Furthermore, moral science is divided into three parts; politics, economics and monastics. The first consists in the government of society, the second concerns managing family matters, and the third regards one's own proper conduct.

Furthermore, rational science is divided into three parts: grammar, rhetoric and logic. Grammar teaches the proper arrangement of letters into syllables, syllables into words and words into phrases. Rhetoric deals with three kinds of causes, namely demonstrative, deliberative and judicial. Dialectic deals with syllogism absolutely speaking, as in the *Prior Analytics*, and its subjective parts, as in the *Posterior Analytics*, in the *Topics* and in the *Sophistic Refutations*; while its integral parts are dealt with in the *Categories* and the *Perihermeneias* (*On Interpretation*).

