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**Review of *The Metaphysics of Theism: Aquinas's Natural Theology in Summa Contra Gentiles I* by Norman Kretzmann**

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## Book Review of *The Metaphysics of Theism: Aquinas's Natural Theology in Summa Contra Gentiles*, by Norman Kretzmann

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The last quarter of the twentieth century has seen an extraordinary revival of interest in religion on the part of philosophers, a revival fueled in part by advocates of Reformed epistemology who argue that belief in God is properly basic and, as a consequence, the efforts of those who would argue over proofs of the existence of God are epistemologically unnecessary and even misplaced. Kretzmann, manifesting one of the finest analytical minds in the philosophical circles of our times, rejects that approach and argues for the philosophical cogency of natural theology as “philosophy from the top down,” a metaphysics of theism conceived as “the Grandest Unified Theory,” which he has found in the thought of Thomas Aquinas. As he succinctly puts it, “In this book I’m going to engage in, and try to defend, the metaphysics of theism, focusing on what I take to be its paradigm, Thomas Aquinas’s *Summa contra gentiles*.” This book is a serious and powerful exposition of Aquinas’s metaphysical philosophy of God and a challenging call for the revivification of natural theology based on demonstrative and probable philosophical reasoning.

New York: Oxford University Press, 1997. Pp. xii + 302. \$45.00, ISBN 0-19- 823660-3.