

Temptations Away from Beauty

- I. The Challenge of Beauty
 - a. The tension between Order and Surprise
 - i. People think finding order makes things predictable, and so not surprising
 - b. Have to develop the discipline of perceiving deeper levels of order
 - i. Reality is rich enough that it's always possible to find those deeper levels and be surprised by them
 - ii. People only find things uninteresting when they stop learning about it.
 1. Then they pick *either* order or surprise, instead of both

- II. Disorder and Banality
 - a. **Disorder** = Surprise without Order
 - i. We were made for surprise, but pursuing the pleasure of surprise apart from order leads to perversion.
 - ii. People get addicted to shock, and it's subject to the law of diminishing returns – it therefore degenerates into deeper forms of disorder
 1. This is caused by *a lack of temperance*
 2. Primary example is in the realm of sexuality
 - b. **Banality** = Order without Surprise
 - i. Routine, boring, stale – when you do things the same way again and again with no creativity or freshness
 1. This is caused by *a lack of fortitude*
 - ii. Happens through
 1. Thoughtlessness
 2. Prioritizing convenience/efficiency

- III. How to Resist the Temptations to Disorder and Banality
 - a. **Keep the Commandments** – ensures ORDER
 - b. **Break the Conventions** – ensures SURPRISE