



Chapter 7

On the Porphyrian Tree (Figure 10-1), the first three things listed on the left are generic differences, since they mark differences between genera, rather than between a genus and a species. But the last one listed on the left, *rational*, is a specific difference, since it marks a difference between a genus and a species.

It is in this sense that we say that the predicable *difference* is the *final perfection* of an essence—because there is nothing more we can say about its essence other than its *genus* (what generic class the subject falls into) and its *species* (the whole of a subject’s essence).

_____ **Conclusion.** Let’s review these three predicables before we continue, in the next chapter, to look at the final two predicables. We separate them this way—species, genus and difference in this chapter, property and accident in the next—because these first three predicables say something about the essence of individual natures, whereas the last two predicables do not say anything essential about an individual nature.

For any individual inferior, there are several things that can be known:

These first three predicables say something about the essence of individual natures, whereas the last two do not say anything essential about an individual nature.

Species	One species
Genus	One proximate genus Several remote genera One ultimate genus
Difference	One specific difference Several remote (or generic) differences

Let’s take the individual nature John and say what we can know about his essence in terms of the first three predicables:

Species	One species	Man
Genus	One proximate genus Several remote genera One ultimate genus	Animal Body, Organism Substance
Species	One specific difference Several remote (or generic) differences	Rational Material, Living, Sentient

Throughout this chapter, we have been using one example: the example of *John*, who is a *man*. We have been using the example of a man because we have a direct knowledge of the essence of man, since that is what each of us are: men. The only other essences that we can fully know are some mathematical entities (e.g. triangle, square, etc.). For every other non-human nature or essence it is difficult to know their essences fully, although we can know much about their essences.



Exercises for Day 1. Carefully read “What are the Five Predicables?”

1. What are we discussing in this chapter? _____

2. Explain in your own words, as best you can what the predicables are: _____

3. Compare the ten categories and the five predicables by telling what they both classify: _____

4. Contrast the ten categories and the five predicables by telling how they are different from one another:

5. List the five predicables: 1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

6. Explain what an inferior is in your own words: _____

7. Explain how the Porphyrian Tree can help you in determining whether one concept is inferior to another in terms of its extension: _____

8. On the next page, draw a complete Porphyrian Tree.

Exercises for Day 2. Read section titled, “Species: the First Predicable.”

9. Define species, the first predicable: _____

10. In what two ways do individuals of the same species differ?

1. _____

2. _____



The Porphyrian Tree:



11. What question does *species* answer? _____

12. In the statement “John is a man,” which term is being predicated of which? (In other words, is *John* being predicated of *man*, or is *man* being predicated of *John*?) Explain your answer: _____

13. What are we saying when we say we predicate something of something else? _____

14. In the statement “John is a man,” what is being affirmed of what? _____

15. Answer the question “What is John’s essence” giving your answer in terms of John’s *species*: _____

16. When we answer the question “What is its essence” of something in terms of *species*, how fully are we answering the question? How much of the essence of the thing have we included in the answer? _____

17. Of what other things is the species *man* predicable? _____

18. What do all of the things of which man is predicable share? _____

19. In terms of their species, what do John and Mary and Thomas and Timothy share and in what do they differ? _____

Read section titled, “Genus: the Second Predicable.”

20. Define *genus*, the second predicable: _____

21. In what two ways do individuals of the same genus differ? _____

22. What question does *genus* answer? _____

23. In the statement “John is an animal,” which term is being predicated of which? (In other words, is *John* being predicated of *animal*, or is *animal* being predicated of *John*?) _____

24. What are we saying when we say we are predicating something of something else? [Review] _____

Daily Exercises for Chapter 7



25. In the statement “John is an animal,” what is being affirmed of what? _____

26. Answer the question “What is John’s essence” giving your answer in terms of John’s *genus*. _____

27. When we answer the question “What is its essence” of something in terms of *genus*, how fully are we answering the question? How much of the essence of the thing have we included in the answer? _____

28. Of what other things is the genus *animal* predicable? _____

29. What do all of the things of which animal is predicable share? _____

30. In terms of their *genus*, in what do lions and tigers and bears and men share and in what do they differ?

Exercises for Day 3. Read section titled, “Difference: the Third Predicable.”

31. Define *difference*, the third predicable: _____

32. What question does *difference* answer? _____

33. In the statement “John is rational,” which term is being predicated of which? (In other words, is *John* being predicated of *rational*, or is *rational* being predicated of *John*?) _____

34. What are we saying when we say we predicate something of something else? [Review] _____

35. In the statement “John is rational,” what is being affirmed of what? _____

36. Answer the question “What is the quality of John’s essence” giving your answer in terms of John’s *difference*:

37. When part of the essence *John* are we addressing in difference? _____

38. In addition to indicating something about the essence of John, what else does the term *rational* do?

39. What do all of the things of which animal is predicable share? _____



40. When we say that John is rational, to what species is the nature of John contracted and from what genus is it contracted? _____

41. Why do we call this third predicable *difference*? _____

42. Is the predicate *rational* in the statement “John is rational” a generic or specific difference? Why? _____

43. Is the term *material* in the statement “John is material” a generic or a specific difference? Why? _____

44. Is the term *living* in the statement “John is living” a generic or a specific difference? Why? _____

45. Is the term *sentient* in the statement “John is sentient” a generic or a specific difference? Why? _____

46. From what genus and to what species does the term *rational* contract *John* in the statement “John is rational”?

47. From what genus and to what more specific genus does the term *material* contract *John* in the statement “John is material”?

48. From what genus and to what more specific genus does the term *living* contract *John* in the statement “John is living”?

49. From what genus and to what more specific genus does the term *sentient* contract *John* in the statement “John is sentient”?

50. What is the difference between a *specific* difference and a *generic* difference? _____

51. What is the most generic genus (or general class) that we can say the nature *John* falls into? _____

52. What is the most generic *difference* we can predicate of the nature *John*? _____

53. What is the most specific *species* in which we can place the nature *John*? _____



54. What is the most *specific* difference we can predicate of the essence John? _____

_____ **Exercises for Day 4. Read section titled, "Conclusion."**

55. What is different about the three predicables studied in this chapter and the two predicables studied in the next chapter? _____

56. In the chart below, indicate what kind of things in terms of the first three predicables that we can know about the essence John:

Species	
Genus	
Difference	

57. Indicate in the following diagram what we can know about any nonhuman (and non-mathematical) entity:

Species	
Genus	
Difference	

58. Indicate on the following diagram the things we can know about the nature of John in terms of the first three predicates:

Species	One species	
Genus	One proximate genus Several remote genera One ultimate genus	
Difference	One specific difference Several remote (or generic) differences	

Daily Exercises for Chapter 7



61. Give the category and use of each italicized word: [Review]

The lion stands on a hill. If he hears a man *hunting*, or smells him *through his nose*, scenting his approach—by whatsoever way he wishes to go down into the valley, all his footprints he fills in after him. He drags dust with his tail wherever he steps—either dust or dew, so that the hunter cannot find him. Down he drives to his den where he will hide himself.

Another trick he has. When he is newly born, the lion *lies* still; he stirs not out of his sleep until the sun has thrice shone about him. Then his father rouses him with the roaring that he makes.

A third habit has the lion. When he lies down to sleep, he will never lock the lids of his eyes.

Signification: Well high is that hill which is the Heavenly Kingdom. Our Lord is the lion who lives there *above*; however, it *pleased* Him to alight here on the earth. *Never* could the devil know, though he be a *cunning* hunter, how He came down, nor how He found Himself a den in that *mild* maiden, Mary by name, who bore Him for *the good* of mankind.

Though our Lord was *dead* and buried, as was His will, in a stone lay He still, until the *third* day came. His Father so helped Him that He rose then from the dead to keep us in life. He watches as is His will, as a shepherd over His flock. He is *the shepherd*; we are the sheep. He will shield us *well*, if we listen to His word and go nowhere *astray*.

	<u>Category</u>	<u>Use</u>
The lion	_____	_____
hunting	_____	_____
through his nose	_____	_____
lies	_____	_____
above	_____	_____
pleased	_____	_____
Never	_____	_____
cunning	_____	_____
mild	_____	_____
the good	_____	_____
dead	_____	_____
third	_____	_____
the shepherd	_____	_____
well	_____	_____
astray	_____	_____