



Teaching Boethius with Josh Gibbs

Lesson 1: Lady Philosophy's Diagnosis of Boethius

Outline:

Book 1, Chapter 2

Amnesia

- Forgotten who he is
- Forgotten what a human being is
- Forgotten who God is

Book 1, Chapter 4

Boethius explains the conspiracy against him and brings up questions first put forth by Epicurus (3rd - 4th c. B.C.):

- Is God willing to stop evil but not able? Then he is not omnipotent.
- Is God able to stop evil but not willing? Then he is not omni-benevolent.
- Is God willing and able to stop evil? Then why is there evil?
- Is God neither willing nor able to stop evil? Then why do we call him God?

Lady Philosophy will not answer; Boethius is not ready to honestly receive her answer, as he is overcome by the passions: desire, delight, fear, and, principally, grief.

- This rejection of the passions is a stoic response, as Boethius believed the passions disturb the tranquility of the soul.
- Augustine, conversely, taught that the passions have value.

Boethius vs. Job