

Reading Questions for October 2

These questions cover excerpts from three different books. One is by Plato and called *The Symposium*. Another is by Aristotle and called *Metaphysics*. A third is by Aquinas and is called *The Summa Theologica*. The answers do not have to be turned in. You will probably have to read more than once to get the answers.

*Background:*

In the course of examining the question “What is beauty?” we are going to take a quick tour through history. In particular, we are going to see what six of the most important philosophers in the history of Western Philosophy have to say with regards to beauty. For today, we are looking at ancient and medieval philosophy; on Monday we will be looking at modern philosophy.

*Questions:*

1. What are the key things that Plato says about beauty? What do you think, is he right about them? Why?
2. What are the key things that Aristotle says about beauty in the paragraph starting “Now since the good ...” What do you think, is he right about them? Why?
3. What are the key things that Aquinas says about beauty in the paragraph starting “The beautiful is the same as the good ...” What do you think, is he right about them? Why?