

Human Nature

Human nature? Defined or described in the following ways, as that part of nature (and transcending nature) which most concerns man:

View:	Greek	Hebraic	Christian	“Modern”
Man is a ...	rational animal	free individual	wounded creature	sensitive animal
Living by ...	natural law	divine law	divine grace	social law
Seeking ...	happiness	righteousness	perfection	security
By means of ...	knowledge	obedience	love	adjustment

The above descriptions are made in terms of the traditional four causes: the material, the formal, the final, and the efficient, in that order.

The Greek, Hebraic and Christian views as schematized above are not considered to be contradictory of each other; each succeeding view is seen as complementing and transcending (not contradicting or supplanting) the ones before.

The view marked “Modern” is the traditional view of man-considered only-as-one-of- the-animals. As a “modern” view, it is held by atheists, humanitarians, Freudians, Marxists, and other materialists.

The Graeco-Judaeo-Christian view of man — the first three above, with the fourth as a co-existing subordinate view — was held by all major poets in the Christian era until at least the 19th century.

Taken from: *The Orthodox Poetic: A Literary Catechism*, by Arvid Shulenberger, 1963.