

Book Reviews

Alfonso García Nuño, *Lo metafísico en Xavier Zubiri*. Ediciones Universidad San Damaso, 2023, 1365 pp., 50 Euros. (Available from the University's online store, <https://www.sandamaso.es/publicaciones/25-studia-philosophica-matritensia>).

This is a remarkable book, over 1,000 pages devoted to Zubiri's metaphysics, set in the context of the history of philosophy. The explanations are always clear, and the author has a firm grip on Zubiri's thought as well as that of the major philosophers with whom Zubiri was constantly in dialogue. The scope of the book is broad, utilizing Zubiri's published works, material from the archives of the Zubiri Foundation in Madrid, and a great number of secondary sources. As befits a first-class scholarly work, it includes many quotations from Zubiri's works, and is densely footnoted, so the reader is never in doubt about the points made by the author, or how he came to his conclusions. The author has an amazing feel for the development of Zubiri's thought, and illustrates it quite well throughout the book, weaving passages from Zubiri's works with those of others (e.g., Heidegger) who wrote about the same or similar topics. I found the discussions of the diaphanous and of causality, just to mention two examples, to be particularly valuable.

A brief outline of the book will indicate its compass. It begins with an introduction that discusses Zubiri's attitude toward philosophy, the major stages in the development of his thought, interpretations of his work, a comprehensive review of Zubiri's works, both those published in his lifetime and those reconstructed later, Zubiri's relationship with the history of philosophy, and an analysis of the structure of his major works. This takes 180 pages and would easily stand as a book just by itself. The body of the book is divided into four main sections:

- I. A discussion of metaphysics and the idea of metaphysics in major philosophers, and including key concepts such as transcendentality, being, and object, about 80 pages.
- II. Covers human apprehension of things and reality, as developed over the course of Zubiri's philosophical development, about 180 pages.
- III. An in-depth discussion of the metaphysical, concentrating on reality and the transcendental, about 600 pages.
- IV. A lengthy analysis of metaphysics as a mode of knowing, in Zubiri's philosophy, about 160 pages.

The book ends with a relatively brief (30 pages) conclusion, which is itself an excellent review of the transcendental in Zubiri's thought. It is impossible to illustrate the book with a representative quotation, because every page is so well composed and so much on point.

For those seeking a comprehensive overview of Zubiri's metaphysics, this book is perfect; and even those already familiar with Zubiri's thought will find the book to be very useful and enlightening. At the bargain price of 50 Euros for such an in-depth but quite readable book, I cannot recommend it enough! It should be in the library of every student of Zubiri's philosophy.

-Thomas Fowler