

METAPHYSICS 101 : CHART 01

BEING (<i>ENS</i>)	<p>Reality is the first thing a baby wakes up to. It is that which we first perceive. What our intellect knows first is that things exist, that things are. Our FIRST CONCEPT*, vague though it may be, is that of BEING.</p> <p>What is being (<i>ens</i>)? Being is what is. <i>Ens est id quod est.</i></p>
PRINCIPLE OF NON-CONTRADICTION	<p>After becoming aware of being (reality), we become aware of its opposite—non-being (<i>non-ens</i>). The FIRST JUDGMENT follows: Being is not non-being. The first principle is: NOTHING CAN BE AND NOT BE AT THE SAME TIME AND IN THE SAME SENSE.</p> <p>Can it be demonstrated? --Demonstration requires that we use a concept or principle that is more obvious or evident than the one we are trying to demonstrate. --BUT this principle is the first and most evident of all. --It can only be demonstrated indirectly, by showing that when one denies this principle, he contradicts himself.</p>

*The three acts of the intellect are:

1. SIMPLE APPREHENSION: through abstraction, we grasp the essence of something and express it in a CONCEPT.
2. JUDGMENT: when we affirm or deny one concept of another, we are judging. The product is a JUDGMENT.
3. REASONING: when we relate two judgments, we may be able to come up with a CONCLUSION. The conclusion comes in the form of a judgment.