

**Nicolai Lancicij E Societate Iesv Opvscvlorvm Spiritvalivm
Tomvs ...**

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Antverpiae, 1650

Proœmium

[urn:nbn:de:hbz:466:1-78809](#)

NICOLAI
LANCIKI
E SOCIE TATE IESV
OPUSCULVM SPIRITVALE
SEPTIMV. M;
In quo explicantur de causis & remedijis
ARIDITATIS IN ORATIONE,
ET SOLATIIS ORANTIVM ARIDE,
Ex doctrinis Sanctorum.

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alphabeti in fine totius operis.

P R O O E M I V M.

Ihil ferè perturbat frequentius, vitæ spirituali addicatos, quām
sterilitas quadam & ariditas animi, eam dum in oratione pa-
tiuntur inuiti. Quocirca communi morbo, & molestiæ, cupiens
aliquid adferre leuamen, rem hanc, et si ab aliis bene ante me ac
diligenter tractatam, meo quoque modo explicandam suscep-
ti. Pictores enim, in hoc, & in aliis meis Opusculis imitari conor,
qui nouas veterum Sanctorum pingunt, suo quisque artificio, imagines, quā-
uis

VII. DE ARIDITATE IN ORATIONE.

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uis eleganter anteā, à magni nominis pictoribus, diverso temperamento colorum atque umbrarum expressas. Et quidem hoc Opusculum, velut quoddam præmissum præludium, donec alteri de praxi diuinæ præsentia, & varijs orandi modis, manum ultimam apponam. Hoc ergo legas interim Lector benevolē, Deumque (quod à te vehementer peto) exores, ut alios quosdam tractatus, in opusculo de Indiciis & gradibus profectus citatos, perficere atque in lucem proferre queam. Vale Pragæ, A.D. 1641 10. Septembris.

CAPUT PRIMUM.

Quid sit orationis ariditas, & quotuplex,
& unde oritur.

Multi, præterim in vita spirituali tiori, valde affliguntur, ob aridates, quas in oratione patiuntur: ideoque plerique ab oratione abhorrent: & ei dediti, male le oras opinantur, dum spiritus ariditatem iniuit sustinere coguntur. Quæ sanè res etiam viros perfectos sèpè infestat. Hinc Cassianus suum statum deplorans dicebat Abbatu Sereno: Cum directionem cordis ad definitam contemplationem perendere senserimus, insensibiliter mes inde renoluta, ad priores euagationes impetu vehementi prolabitur, & ita quotidiani distensionibus occupata, innumeris captiuitatibus incessanter abducatur, ut propinquum iam desperetur a nobis desiderata correctio, & superflua hac obscurantia videatur. Siquidem per momenta singula lubricis, discursibus animus euagatur. Cumq; ad timorem Dei vel contemplationem reducitur spiritualem, priusquam firmetur in ea, rursus fugacius evanescit. Cumq; eum velut expergescati deprehenderimus, ab intentione proposta deuississe, atque ad illam theoriam, unde discesserat, reducentes, voluerimus tenacissimam cordis intentionem, velut quibusdam vinculis obligare, in ipso conatu nostro, oījus quam anguilla de recessibus mentis elabitur. Ad quæ respondens Abbas Serenus ait: id ex nostræ conditione contingit: Mens, inquit, nos semper mobiles, & multum mobiles definitur, qua pro conditione naturæ, nunquam potest otiosa confiteari, sed necesse est eam, nisi prouisum habuerit, ubi suos exercet motus, & in quibus ingiter occupetur, propriâ mobilitate discurrere, & per omnia volitare.

Porro nomine ariditatem, quas appellat sterilitatem mentis Abbas Daniel apud Cassianum, hic non intelligo illos orationis defectus vel manus, quos sanctus Ioannes Climacus appellat fordes & exterminationem, aspergens, fordes esse, DEO aspistere, & iniquas cogitationes in animo versare, scilicet voluntariè: Exterminationem vero effe, ad curas inutiles, captiuum perturbabi. Sed aridatum nomine intelligo 1. distractiones seu euagationes mentis, quibus animus ad alia cogitanda invitus aurocatur, aliena prorsus à propria meditationis materia, ut si contigisse scri-

bit S.Hieronymus, Nunc, inquit, cerebrimè in oratione mea, aut per porticus deambulo, aut de扇ore computo. Nam, ut ait S.Bernardus: Cogitationum multiplex varietas esse cognoscitur. Alia namq; cor instillant, ut superbe, ut elevant, ut vanaz, alia perturbant, ut inuidæ, alia dissipant, ut iracundæ, alia confundant, ut acedie, alia distendunt, ut ambitione, alia ligant, ut gulosæ, alia inquinant, ut luxuriose, alia contrahunt, ut timide, alia corrumpunt, ut malitiose. Non mirum ergo nos sèpè distrahi, habentes intra nos distractiorum origines.

2. Nominis atidi censetur, si quis sine villa mentis distractione, non sentiat vnum rerum diuinorum gustum, & consolationem, sed sit tanquam terra sine aqua piorum affectuum, & tanquam aridum quoddam lignum, quandoque nec discurrens valens.

3. Si quis præterea inordinatis, prauorum affectuum motibus exagitetur, vel ira vel tristitia, vel aliis, & per eos ad aliquod peccatum alliciatur vel concitetur.

4. Si ob talen mentis atidæ, & inquietæ statum, sentiantur tædium in oratione, & ob id inclinatio ad illam abrumpendam, quæ (sumpto generali nominis acedie) appellari potest acedie, quæ propriè sumpta, est voluntaria tristitia de bono diuino, de quo charitas gaudeat, ut docet S.Tho.

5. Si somholentia in oratione infestet orantem. Hæc omniæ nomine ariditatis comprehenduntur: cuius effectus iudicem solent esse, qui Acedie, & practicè recententur à S.Ioanne Clima-

co: Si acediam diligenter consideres, inuenies eam oppugnare laetitudine flantes peccibus, sedentibus persuadere ut super parietem se reclinent. Interrogata a cedia, dicer: Qui mihi cedunt, eum hi vñā dego. In his autem qui vere obedientes sunt, non habeo rbi caput reclinem. Nomen mihi dederunt, insensibilitas anima, irreminiscientia quadam atque oblitio calcifium, non-nunquam etiam immensa (hoc est, nimia & indiscreta) laborum multitudo. Stirpes verò mea, mutaciones locorum sunt: inobedientia spiritualis Patris, futuri iudicij oblitio: nonnunquam verò etiam professionis derelictio. Nunc videndum est, quomodo se generere debeat homo, in talibus aridatibus. Quod ut intelligatur, dico consideranda sunt. 1. Unde oriuntur aridates. 2. Quid illis durantibus, nobis faciendum sit.

Quod primum, Dico, aridates oriuntur duabus modis: 1. ex causis immediatis. 2. ex me-

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diatis.

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