

In this essence is present an enfolding beginning-of-power, which is the creature's center, or being (*entitas*); this latter enfolds within itself the creature's power. And the power-of-being which is enfolded in the center is unfolded as if in an educed line, which is power-of-being that is begotten, or unfolded, from the [creature's] being [*ens*]. And from the center and the line together, there proceeds the circumference, or operation. And [in an illustratively analogous way], note [in the case of God] (1) that the center is the Paternal Beginning, which with regard to creatures can be called *Being* (*entitas*), and (2) that the line is as a Beginning from a Beginning and, thus, is *Equality*: for the Beginning-from-a-Beginning has the highest equality with the Beginning from which it exists.⁵³ And the circumference is as a Uniting, or a Union; for from Infinite Being and its Equality there proceeds Union, for Union unites Equality to Oneness.⁵⁴ And in like manner: when the Creator looks unto Himself, He creates oneness (or being, or center) and form (or equality-of-being) and the union of both. But creatures flow forth from the Creator in the best way in which the condition of [each's] nature permits and in a [respective] likeness of the Creator—just as I have elsewhere more extensively set forth my conception (such as it is) of this matter.⁵⁵

- 7 From mathematics we know that “straight” is predicated in one way only. For whether a straight line is long or short, it is not more straight or less straight than is another straight line. Therefore, straightness is conceived to be infinite because it is not confined by quantity and does not admit of more and less. Therefore, absolute straightness is infinite. By contrast, curvature cannot be infinite. Accordingly, the “circular line” of an infinite circle cannot be a curve, because that line is infinite.⁵⁶ Therefore, all curvature is confined by the limits of its own magnitude. Moreover, curvature has no exemplar except straightness. For he who wishes to draw a curved line looks mentally at a straight line and causes the curved line to bend away from the straight line. Now, [finite] circular curvature is the curvature which is the closest likeness to infinite straightness.⁵⁷ For infinite straightness is eternity itself,⁵⁸ which has no beginning or middle or end or quantity or quality. But circular curvature, which, of necessity, is quantitative and composite, has a coincidence of beginning and end; and, of necessity, circular curvature derives from infinite straightness as from its own beginning and truth. For curvature does not exist from itself but exists from that straightness which is its measuring-standard; for the