

Pietro Aureoli su materia prima e forme incoate

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Abstract: The study investigates Peter Auriol's view of matter and the doctrine of *inchoatio formarum*. Auriol defines matter as something that has a positive, but potential existence, and as the bearer of the indeterminate quantity. In virtue of this property, matter is the subject of natural change and is divisible into many parts and thus into many sensible beings; and is therefore a principle not of individuation, but of multiplication of natural forms. The informative process of matter is defined as a gradual informative process that develops from the internal mutations of matter and its properties and culminates in the generation of the various natures. The natures are the concrete beings, composed of matter and form, but completely unitary, considered from the point of view of their formal principle. For this reason, Auriol maintains that one must speak more properly of *inchoatio naturarum* than of *inchoatio formarum*: there are no forms in an embryonic state in matter; rather, there are several natures (i.e. several beings) that can arise from the inexhaustible potentiality of matter.

Keywords: Peter Auriol, Matter, Form, Indeterminate Quantity, *Inchoatio Formarum*, Concrete Beings.

1. Introduzione

All'interno della sua critica alla dottrina platonica delle idee, Aristotele aveva affermato che le idee non possono spiegare il movi-