NATURE OF MORALITY & LAW
Nature of Morality

MORALITY

The quality of the human act which makes it good or evil.
Such quality is based on the following things:

- Sources of Morality
- Norms of Morality
Norms of Morality

TRADITIONAL NORMS

- Right Reason
- Law
- Conscience
Traditional Norms

- RIGHT REASON
  That which proceeds from the apprehension, judgment and logical deduction of the truth.
  It also presupposes common sense.
Traditional Norms

**LAW**

In its widest meaning means *any constant of action and reaction*. Thus, one can speak of the laws of physics, chemistry and nature.

When applied to man it is not only concerned with activities like the arts but the activity of *man as man* or the directing of his life to the final end.
Traditional Norms: Law

Law has two **dimensions**:
- **It is an expression of the intrinsic human value and the call of God.** Thus, it is *internalized*, and an *invitation to love* as a way of attaining human perfection.
Traditional Norms

- It is also a demand and as such seems to come from outside and appears like a constraint provoking resistance. In the right perspective, law is an expression of human value.
EXISTENCE OF LAW

- **Reason** concludes that a Supreme Being as supremely wise cannot act without a plan, rules and decrees at the evolution of creation and no less the course of human activity.
- **Scriptures** testifies that God has a well-defined plan for the world and mankind *(Job 28:20-27).*
Traditional Norms: Law

CLASSIFICATIONS OF LAW

- **Origin**
  Divine and Human

- **Duration**
  Eternal and Temporal

- **Manner of Promulgation**
  Positive and Natural

- **Effect**
  Moral, Penal and Mixed
**ORIGIN**

- *Divine* when the law comes directly from God
- *Human* when God delegates law-making to men by virtue of their responsibilities and positions in society. *Civil* when they refer to secular society and *Ecclesiastical* when they refer to the Church.
Traditional Norms: Law

DURATION

- **Eternal** is that objective and universal law whereby God orders, directs and governs the whole world and the ways of the human community according to the plan of wisdom and love. *This law has no end and co-exists with God.*
**Traditional Norms: Law**

**DURATION**

- *Temporal* are laws subject to time and therefore can be changed, abrogated, amended or superseded by other laws. *Human laws are temporal laws.*
Traditional Norms: Law

MANNER OF PROMULGATION

*Positive* when the laws are directly promulgated whether human or divine.

*Natural* when they are indirectly promulgated or is found in the nature of creation. It is the law that guides creatures towards their end.
Traditional Laws: Law

- Natural law applied to irrational creatures is called **physical law or law of nature** while the **moral law or natural law** guides rational creatures.

- *Natural Law is the participation of the eternal law in rational creatures.*
Traditional Norms: Law

PRESCRIPTIONS

**Penal** when the transgression of the law entails a punishment.

**Moral** when the transgression of the law entails sin or a fault.

**Mixed** when the transgression of the law entails both a sin and a punishment.
References:

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