

St. Francis of Assisi: Knowledge of the Scriptures by “Connaturality”

St. Bonaventure of Regiobagno, *Doctor Seraphicus* and author of the classic and official biography of St. Francis, known as the *Leggenda maggiore*, in chapter XI [1187], states:

Untiring dedication to prayer, together with the uninterrupted exercise of virtue, had made the man of God arrive to such great clarity of spirit that, even though he had not acquired competence in the sacred Scriptures by means of study and human erudition, nevertheless, radiated by the splendor of the eternal light, *he scrutinized the depths* [cf. Job 28:11] of the Scriptures with a limpid and acute intellect.

His genius, pure from every stain, penetrated the secret of the mysteries, and where the science of the masters remains excluded, he entered with the affection of the lover.

He would read, from time to time, the sacred books and retained tenaciously impressed in his memory what he had once assimilated: since he mulled over (“ruminated”) continuously with affectionate devotion what he had heard with an attentive mind.

Translated from the Italian by E.G.C. from *Fonti francescane. Edition minor* (1986), pp. 606-60.

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