

Authorization

1 Chapter 16 outline

1. Definitions ¶¶ 1-4
 - a. person: natural, artificial
 - b. representative: with and without authority or ownership
2. Implications of authority. ¶¶ 5-8
3. Representation without an author. ¶¶ 9-11
4. Solution to the problem of the trinity. ¶ 12
5. Multitudes, collective persons, and representatives. ¶¶ 13-17
6. Distinction between owning an action “simply” and owning it “conditionally,” e.g. sureties. ¶18

2 The social contract

The only way to erect such a common power, as may be able to defend them ... is, to confer all their power and strength upon one man, or upon one assembly of men, that may reduce all their wills, by plurality of voices, unto one will: which is as much as to say, to appoint one man, or assembly of men, to bear their person; and every one to own, and acknowledge himself to be author of whatsoever he that so beareth their person, shall act, or cause to be acted, in those things which concern the common peace and safety; and therein to submit their wills, every one to his will, and their judgments, to his judgment. This is more than consent, or concord; it is a real unity of them all, in one and the same person, made by covenant of every man with every man, in such manner, as if every man should say to every man, *I authorise and give up my right of governing myself, to this man, or to*

this assembly of men, on this condition, that thou give up thy right to him, and authorize all his actions in like manner. This done, the multitude so united in one person, is called a COMMONWEALTH, in Latin CIVITAS. This is the generation of that great LEVIATHAN, or rather (to speak more reverently) of that mortal god, to which we owe under the immortal God, our peace and defence. For by this authority, given him by every particular man in the commonwealth, he hath the use of so much power and strength conferred on him, that by terror thereof, he is enabled to form the wills of them all, to peace at home, and mutual aid against their enemies abroad. And in him consisteth the essence of the commonwealth; which (to define it,) is *one person, of whose acts a great multitude, by mutual covenants one with another, have made themselves every one the author, to the end he may use the strength and means of them all, as he shall think expedient, for their peace and common defence.*

And he that carrieth this person, is called SOVEREIGN, and said to have sovereign power; and every one besides, his SUBJECT. (*Leviathan*, ch. 17, par. 13-14)

3 Artificial person

because the concept of person is of use in civil affairs, it can be defined as follows: *a person is he to whom the words and actions of men are attributed, either his own or another's: if his own, the person is natural; if another's it is artificial.* (*De Homine*, ch. 15, par. 1)

4 Authorizing crimes

facts done against the law, by the authority of another, are by that authority excused against the author; because no man ought to accuse his own fact in another, that is but his instrument: but it is not excused against a third person thereby injured; because in the violation of the law, both the author and actor are criminals. (*Leviathan* ch. 27, par. 27)