

Preparation for the Conflict

With such power did this one idea take possession of his mind that at last he regarded it in the light of a divine revelation, and, having traced the outline of such a work, he called it the "Ars Major sive Generalis." This universal system of logic and philosophy was to be the weapon of God against all error, and more especially against the errors of Islam.

Lull was now in his forty-first year. All his intellectual powers were matured. He retired to the spot near Palma where the idea had first burst upon him, and remained there for four months, writing the book and praying for divine blessing on its arguments. According to one biographer,* it was at this time that Lull held interviews with a certain mysterious shepherd, "*quem ipse nunquam viderat alias, neque de ipso audiverat quenquam loqui.*" Is it possible that this refers only to the Great Shepherd

* "*Vita Prima,*" in "*Acta Sanctorum,*" 663.