

On Plato S Symposium

Symposium Plato's Symposium Plato's 'Symposium' Symposium Plato's Symposium The Symposium The Symposium (Collins Classics) Symposium On Plato's Symposium Plato's Symposium Plato: The Symposium Symposium Symposium or Drinking Party Symposium (Annotated) An Analysis of Plato's Symposium Plato's Symposium The Cambridge Companion to Plato Symposium Plato: The Symposium Plato's Symposium Plato Richard L. Hunter Thomas L. Cooksey Plato Stanley Rosen Plato By Plato Seth Benardete Frisbee Candida Cheyenne Sheffield Frisbee C. C. Sheffield Plató Plato Richard Ellis Pierre Destrée Richard Kraut Plato Frisbee C. C. Sheffield Plato

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translated with an introduction and notes by christopher gill

the symposium is one of plato s most sophisticated meditations on the practice of philosophy this book introduces the context of plato s work surveys and explains the arguments and considers why plato has cast this work in a highly unusual narrative form

translated by jordan stump introduction by caleb carr and original illustrations by jules ferat

plato s retelling of the discourses between socrates and his friends on such subjects as love and desire truth and illusion spiritual transcendence and the qualities of a good ruler profoundly affected the ways in which we view human relationships society and leadership and shaped the whole tradition of western philosophy

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symposium is a philosophical text by plato it concerns itself at one level with the genesis purpose and nature of love and is the origin of the concept of platonic love love is examined in a sequence of speeches by men attending a symposium or drinking party each man must deliver an encomium a speech in praise of love eros the party takes place at the house of the tragedian agathon in athens socrates in his speech asserts that the highest purpose of love is to become a philosopher or literally a lover of wisdom the dialogue has been used as a source by social historians seeking to throw light on life in ancient athens in particular upon sexual behavior and the symposium as an institution

frisbee sheffield argues that the symposium has been unduly marginalized by philosophers although the topic eros and the setting at a symposium have seemed anomalous she demonstrates that both are intimately related to plato s preoccupation with the nature of the good life with virtue and how it is acquired and transmitted for plato analysing our desires is a way of reflecting on the kind of people we will turn out to be and on our chances of leading a worthwhile and happy life in its focus on the question why he considered desires to be amenable to this type of reflection this book explores plato s ethics of desire

plato s symposium written in the early part of the 4th century bc is set at a drinking party symposium attended by some of the leading intellectuals of the day including aristophanes the comic dramatist socrates plato s mentor and alcibiades the brilliant but eventually treacherous politician each guest gives a speech in praise of the benefits of desire and its role in the good and happy human life at the core of the work stands socrates praise of philosophical desire and an argument for the superiority of the philosophical life as the best route to happiness this

edition provides an accessible and engaging new translation by m c howatson and a substantial introduction by frisbee c c sheffield which guides the reader through the various parts of the dialogue and reflects on its central arguments a chronology and detailed notes on the participants help to set this enduring work in context

plato s symposium sees socrates and other participants discuss various philosophic topics from the nature of love to the origins of mankind as well as being an influential text of philosophy the symposium is important for how it sheds light upon the social scene of ancient athens the dialogues are set at a gathering of men at a drinking party discussing the various topics over wine when love is discussed each man must give a speech with his definition of the concept the contribution of each being taken by socrates into the overall philosophic argument although almost certainly a work of fiction the setting is thought to mirror that of a typical gathering of plato and his contemporaries the style of writing is quite plain and accessible with the love discussed being that of homosexual love between the philosophers and other members of the general entourage the discussion feeds into plato s general theory of the forms which would be developed and matured later in his writings within works such as the republic translated by oxford scholar and prolific translator benjamin jowett this edition of plato s symposium is perfect for those wishing to benefit from the myriad insights and ideas of platonic dialogues at a low cost

this new edition of plato s symposium provides beginning readers and scholars alike with a solid reliable translation that is both faithful to the original text and accessible to contemporary readers in addition the volume offers a number of aids to help the reader make his or her way through this remarkable work a concise introduction sets the scene conveys the tenor of the dialogue and introduces the reader to the main characters with a gloss on their backgrounds and a comment on their roles in the dialogue it also provides a list of basic points for readers to keep in mind as they read the work a thought provoking interpretive essay offers reflections on the themes of the dialogue focusing especially on the dialogue as drama a select bibliography points to works both classic and contemporary that are especially relevant to

readers of the symposium two appendices consist of a line drawing that depicts the spacial layout and positioning of characters in the symposium and a chart that shows the relation of the first six speeches to number age parentage and the function of eros

of all the works of plato the symposium is the most perfect in form and may be truly thought to contain more than any commentator has ever dreamed of or as goethe said of one of his own writings more than the author himself knew for in philosophy as in prophecy glimpses of the future may often be conveyed in words which could hardly have been understood or interpreted at the time when they were uttered compare symp which were wiser than the writer of them meant and could not have been expressed by him if he had been interrogated about them

plato s symposium composed in the early fourth century bc demonstrates how powerful the skills of reasoning and evaluation can be known to philosophers for its seminal discussion of the relationship of love to knowledge it is also a classic text for demonstrating the two critical thinking skills that define plato s whole body of work plato s philosophical technique of dialogue is the perfect frame for producing arguments and presenting a persuasive case for a given point of view and at the same time judging the strength of arguments their relevance and their acceptability staging a fictional debate between characters wealthy athenians at a dinner party who must respond in turn to each others arguments and points of view means that at every stage plato evaluates the previous argument assesses its strength and relevance and then proceeds through the next character to reason out a new argument in response exerting unparalleled influence on the techniques of philosophical thought plato s use of dialogue is a supreme example of these two crucial critical thinking skills

plato s symposium is an exceptionally multi layered dialogue at once a historical document a philosophical drama that enacts abstract ideas in an often light hearted way and a literary masterpiece it has exerted an influence that goes well beyond the confines of philosophy the essays in this volume by leading scholars offer detailed analyses of all parts of the work focusing on the central and much debated theme of erōs or human desire which can refer both

to physical desire or desire for happiness they reveal thematic continuities between the prologue and the various speeches as well as between the speeches themselves and present a rich collection of contrasting yet complementary readings of diotima s speech the volume will be invaluable for classicists and philosophers alike and for all who are interested in one of plato s most fascinating and challenging dialogues

fourteen new essays discuss plato s views about knowledge reality mathematics politics ethics love poetry and religion in a convenient accessible guide that analyzes the intellectual and social background of his thought as well

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the dramatic nature of plato s dialogues is delightfully evident in the symposium the marriage between character and thought bursts forth as the guests gather at agathon s house to celebrate the success of his first tragedy with wit and insight they each present their ideas about love from erixymachus s scientific naturalism to aristophanes comic fantasy the unexpected arrival of alcibiades breaks the spell cast by diotima s ethereal climb up the staircase of love to beauty itself ecstasy and intoxication clash as plato concludes with one of his most skillful displays of dialectic

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