

Sethian Gnosticism And The Platonic Tradition

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The Platonic Tradition in the Middle Ages
The Platonic Tradition in English Religious Thought
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The Renaissance
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the platonic tradition in western philosophy is not just one of many equally central traditions it is so much the central one that the very existence and survival of western civilization depends on it it is like the confucian tradition in chinese culture or the monotheistic tradition in religion or the human rights tradition in politics in the first of his eight lectures peter kreeft defines platonism and its big idea the idea of a transcendent reality that the history of philosophy has labeled platonic ideas or platonic forms in the second lecture he briefly explores plato s two basic predecessors or sources myth and socrates and then looks at 12 applications of the forms in plato s own dialogues the third lecture covers the three most important modifications or additions to plato himself in the platonic tradition aristotle plotinus and augustine each of whom gave the forms a new metaphysical address the fourth lecture explores six christian

platonists three in the new testament and three philosophers justin martyr bonaventure and aquinas the next three lectures explore the consequences of the modern abandoning of platonism beginning with william of ockham's nominalism as the source of nearly all modern philosophical errors and its results in the empiricism of locke and hume the so called copernican revolution in philosophy in kant the so called analytic philosophy which still dominates english and american philosophy departments in the sixth essays kreeft looks at 13 influential kinds of positivism or reductionism in modern thought in method history metaphysics epistemology ethics sociology politics logics linguistics sex psychology and theology exemplified by descartes machiavelli hobbes marx kant comte rousseau rawls ayer derrida freud skinner nietzsche and sartre lecture 7 looks at the results of abandoning the platonic tradition in ethics the values vacuum or nihilism in ecclesiastes pascal kierkegaard nietzsche heidegger sartre dostoyevsky tolstoy marcel and buber in the last lecture kreeft looks at some experiential evidence for platonism doors out of the cave that are still open signals of transcendence

this collection of essays delineates the history of the rather disparate intellectual tradition usually labeled as platonic or neoplatonic in chronological order the book covers the most eminent philosophic schools of thought within that tradition the most important terms of the platonic tradition are studied together with a discussion of their semantic implications the philosophical and theological claims associated with the terms the sources that furnish the terms and the intellectual traditions aligned with or opposed to them the contributors thereby provide a vivid intellectual map of the middle ages and the early modern period contributions are written in english or german

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the platonic tradition affords extraordinary resources for thinking about the meaning and value of work in this historical survey of the tradition jeffrey hanson draws on the work of its major thinkers to explain why our contemporary vocabulary for appraising labor and its rewards is too narrow and cramped by tracing out the platonic lineage of work hanson is able to argue why we should be explaining its value for appraising it as an element of a happy and flourishing human life quite apart from its financial rewards beginning with plato's extensive thinking about work's relationship to wisdom hanson covers the singularly powerful arguments of augustine who wrote the ancient world's only treatise dedicated to the topic of manual labor he discusses bernard of clairvaux introduces the priest craftsman theophilus presbyter and provides a study of work and leisure in the writings of petrarch alongside martin luther hanson discusses john ruskin and simone weil two thinkers profoundly disturbed by the conditions of the working class in the rapidly industrializing economies of europe this original study of plato and his inheritors ideas provides practical suggestions for how to approach work in a socially

responsible manner in the 21st century and reveals the benefits of linking work and morality

plato's famous and infamous criticism of homer was the climax of a series of attacks by early thinkers on the first and greatest greek poet homer it triggers an even longer series of responses attempting either to justify further the old quarrel between philosophy poetry pl resp 607b c or in most cases to reconcile the two great authors the so called plato homer problem is in broad outline twofold with numberless ramifications and sub issues why does plato's republic repeatedly attack and even exile the greatest cultural authority of the greeks and why does he do so while quoting homer abundantly more than any other author and even adapting many artistic features of homeric poetry this volume concentrates on the various responses to the controversy among platonically minded writers while including a few other reactions from just outside that circle strategies of reconciliation are many including both allegorical and non allegorical approaches involving the notions of myth mimesis inspiration wisdom theology etc the volume presents original treatments of major figures such as porphyry and proclus as well lesser known authors or texts e g platonic spuria and non platonists xenophon aristotle scholiasts etc who serve as enlightening comparative figures while recent literature on these questions usually concentrates on single authors this book details its reception in the platonic tradition overall

the platonic tradition plato's contribution to western civilization and we should consider that god gave the sovereign part of the human soul to be the divinity of each one of us and inasmuch as we are a plant not of an earthly but of a heavenly growth raises us from earth to our kindred who are in heaven plato timaeus 90a 1 such are the words of plato in his timaeus the dialogues of plato are the source of all of western spirituality yet we hardly know him he has been followed studied loved and adored by those who are aware of what he brought to humanity constantine ritter the great german platonist who died in 1936 ended his condensed book on plato with these words in this i tried briefly to characterize plato's meaning for all time to me he is a philosopher second to none an artist of first rank a man favored by god as few others have been unforgettable for all time releasing spiritual powers which have been a blessing to many and which will continue to be a blessing for all time 2 yet for the great majority of humanity including those trained in theology have never met the man plato and many of those who have met him have misread him criticized him unfairly and in some cases put him in hell as did dante in his divine comedy his philosophy is in the very air we breathe and is the oxygen of our spiritual being yet we do not even notice him this was stated well by alfred edward taylor in his platonism and its influence in these words if we sometimes underestimate our debt in these matters to plato it is only because platonic ideas have become so completely part and parcel of our best tradition in morals and religion his influence like the pressure of the atmosphere goes undetected because we never really get free from it 3 the final introductory quotation i shall give in summary are the words of alfred north whitehead in his process and reality the safest general characterization of european philosophical tradition is that

it consists of a series of footnotes to plato 4 whoever you are a philosopher or a spiritual minister remember honor to whom honor is due you are a footnote to plato and in that you are indeed fortunate

this is a new release of the original 1926 edition

this book which honours the career of a distinguished scholar contains essays dealing with important problems in plato the platonic tradition and the texts and transmission of plato and later platonic writers it ranges from the discussion of issues in individual platonic dialogues to the examination of platonism in the middle ages the essays are written by leading scholars in the field and reflect the current state of knowledge on the various problems under discussion the collection as a whole testifies to the importance of the platonic writings for the history of ideas and to the vitality that the study of these writings continues to possess

forms and concepts is the first comprehensive study of the central role of concepts and concept acquisition in the platonic tradition it sets up a stimulating dialogue between plato s innatist approach and aristotle s much more empirical response the primary aim is to analyze and assess the strategies with which platonists responded to aristotle s and alexander of aphrodisias rival theory the monograph culminates in a careful reconstruction of the elaborate attempt undertaken by the neoplatonist proclus 6th century ad to devise a systematic platonic theory of concept acquisition

testimonies of the platonic tradition is in a way a continuation of konstantinos staikos s recent publication books and ideas the library of plato and the academy 2013 it deals with questions of transmission and classification of plato s dialogues from the philosopher s own age down to the 16th century that is with the fate of the platonic corpus as the chronicle of this journey unfolds readers will be able to follow the foundation of philosophical schools whose teaching was based on platonic theories and concepts in east and west they will also obtain an overview of the works of commentary and annotation of plato s works composed by greek roman byzantine latin and arab authors in order to elucidate the philosopher s thought the book makes clear the importance of timaeus from antiquity onwards as this work became the bible of platonism ever since chalcidius paraphrased the dialogue into latin and offered a classification of its subjects into categories in addition mention is made of the translation of timaeus and parmenides into latin by the greeks henry aristippus and george of trebizond the publication of the latin translation of the philosopher s complete works by marsilio ficino and the part played by the platonic academy of florence in further transmitting the philosophy of plato the text also describes how marcus musurus prepared his editio princeps of plato s complete works and finally deals with the historical period when the debate over the primacy of plato or aristotle broke out

originally published in 1931 muirhead s study aims to challenge the view that locke s

empiricism is the main philosophical thought to come out of england suggesting that the platonic tradition is much more prominent these views are explored in detail in this text as well as touching on its development in the nineteenth century from coleridge to bradley and discussions on transcendentalism in the united states this title will be of interest to students of philosophy

this volume presents an outline of the metaphysics of the platonic tradition which the authors hold as having its roots in the mythic writings of homer and hesiod having been developed through the pythagorean and orphic schools scientifically unfolded by plato and received its finest written flowering in late antiquity in the works of plotinus iamblichus proclus and many others the book is divided into two sections in the first introduced by guy wyndham jones extracts from the works of ancient philosophers concerning the one and the gods unfold the divine summit of the platonic metaphysics this section especially demands more than ordinary study each piece acts as a starting point for the deepest meditation and calls upon the readers deepest faculties he second section by tim addey aims to give the new student a framework from which to begin the serious study of the subject it shows how the orthodox understanding of plato based on the division of reality into abstract form and material manifestation is inadequate for the proper understanding of the tradition instead a more subtle six fold division of the universe is delineated as the way in which the divine sources of the universe unfold in progressive stages to the furthest extremity of things it explains how the universe is understood in this tradition to be a single entity which not only proceeds outwards in an ordered way but also returns to its source in a similar manner

the way plato discusses time and its relation to the cosmos has puzzled and divided his readers from the very beginning this originated rich and diverse readings that shaped and contributed to the cosmological discussion of the hellenistic and late antiquity periods modern scholars too have offered many and often opposed views on the matter this book assembles an international team of scholars to move forward the study of plato s conception of time to find fresh insights for interpreting his cosmology and to reimagine the ancient platonic tradition

all the passages are from the writings and translations of thomas taylor

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