A Commentary On Platos Meno Pr Only

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the meno one of the most widely read of the platonic dialogues is seen afresh in this original interpretation that explores the dialogue as a theatrical presentation just as socrates s listeners would have questioned and examined their own thinking in response to the presentation so klein shows should modern readers become involved in the drama of the dialogue klein offers a line by line commentary on the text of the meno itself that animates the characters and conversation and carefully probes each significant turn of the argument a major addition to the literature on the meno and necessary reading for every student of the dialogue alexander seasonske philosophical review there exists no other commentary on meno which is so thorough sound and enlightening choice jacob klein 1899 1978 was a student of martin heidegger and a tutor at st john s college from 1937 until his death his other works include plato s trilogy theaetetus the sophist and the statesman also published by the university of chicago press

this is an english translation of plato s socratic dialogue attempting to achieve a definition of virtue that applies equally to all particular virtues and serves as a great introduction to socratic dialogues it contains a short introduction notes standard stephanus numbers speech numbers and an appendix containing a unique gallery of step by step geometrical diagrams it also includes illustrations a bibliography and a glossary focus philosophical library translations are close to and are non interpretative of the original text with the notes and a glossary intending to provide the reader with some sense of the terms and the concepts as they were understood by plato s immediate audience

given its brevity plato s meno covers an astonishingly wide array of topics politics education virtue definition philosophical method mathematics the nature and acquisition of knowledge and immortality its treatment of these though profound is tantalisingly short leaving the reader with many unresolved questions this book confronts the dialogue s many enigmas and attempts to solve them in a way that is both lucid and sympathetic to plato s philosophy

reading the dialogue as a whole it explains how different arguments are related to one another and how the interplay between characters is connected to the philosophical content of the work in a new departure this book s exploration focuses primarily on the content and coherence of the dialogue in its own right and not merely in the context of other dialogues making it required reading for all students of plato be they from the world of classics or philosophy

a dialogue between socrates and meno probes the subject of ethics can goodness be taught if it can then we should be able to find teachers capable of instructing others about what is good and bad right and wrong or just and unjust socrates and meno are unable to identify teachers of ethics and we are left wondering how such knowledge could be acquired to answer that puzzle socrates questions one of meno s servants in an attempt to show that we know fundamental ideas by recollecting them plato lived in athens greece he wrote approximately two dozen dialogues that explore core topics that are essential to all human beings although the historical socrates was a strong influence on plato the character by that name that appears in many of his dialogues is a product of plato s fertile imagination all of plato s dialogues are written in a poetic form that his student aristotle called socratic dialogue in the twentieth century the british philosopher and logician alfred north whitehead characterized the entire european philosophical tradition as a series of footnotes to plato philosophy for plato was not a set of doctrines but a goal not the possession of wisdom but the love of wisdom agora publications offers these performances based on the assumption that plato wrote these works to be performed by actors in order to stimulate additional dialogue among those who listen to them

in one volume this book brings together a new english translation of plato s meno a selection of illuminating articles on themes in the dialogue published between 1965 and 1985 and an introduction setting the meno in its historical context and opening up the key philosophical issues which the various articles discuss a glossary is provided which briefly introduces some of the key terms and indicates how they are translated the meno is an excellent introduction to plato and philosophy

as one would expect from the team of brann kalkavage and salem their edition of plato s meno is a fine one the translation meets their stated goal of remaining as faithful as possible to the greek while using lively colloquial english their notes are consistently helpful and will be particularly useful to those readers willing to explore the nuances of plato s extraordinary prose their introduction is clear and compact and it highlights the most philosophically important themes of the dialogue one particularly useful feature of this edition is the manner in which it displays the diagrams socrates draws in order to illustrate his famous square within a square instead of relegating them to the notes it integrates them into the text of the dialogue itself readers are able to follow along and watch socrates actually construct them david roochnik boston university

a unique effort by plato in which he challenges the readers to question their concepts regarding virtue author himself questions his character meno about virtue the dialogue seems to stray from reason at certain points and turns towards the mystical reading plato answers many questions and exposes the framework of so many later writers of history a classic that should be reflected upon

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english translation of plato s socratic dialogue which attempts to achieve a definition of virtue that applies equally to all particular virtues includes an introduction notes and geometrical diagrams that follow the process of thought described in the dialogue itself

plato s meno and phaedo are two of the most important works of ancient western philosophy and continue to be studied around the world the meno is a seminal work of epistemology the phaedo is a key source for platonic metaphysics and for plato s conception of the human soul together they illustrate the birth of platonic philosophy from plato s reflections on socrates life and doctrines this edition offers new and accessible translations of both works together with a thorough introduction that explains the arguments of the two dialogues and their place in plato s thought

the objectives of this book are to provide a new translation of plato s m eno together with a series of studies on its philcisophical argument in the light of recent secondary literature my translation is based mainly on the oxford classical text 1 burnet s platonis opera oxford clarendon press 1900 vol iii in conjunction with this i have made extensive use of r s bluck s plato s meno cam bridge university press 1964 at critical places in the dialogue i have also consulted a croiset s gorgias menon bude text my debt o two other sources will be clearly in evidence they are e s thompson s plato s meno london macmillan 1901 and st george stock s the meno of plato oxford clarendon press 1894 one of the greatest difficulties facing a translator is to achieve a balance between accuracy and elegance literal translations are more likely to be accurate but alas they also tend to be duller free translations run into the opposite danger of paying for elegance and liveliness with the coin of inaccuracy another hurdle for a translator of a platonic dialogue is posed by the challenge to maintain the conversational pattern and fast moving character of the discussion this is easier where the exchang s are short but much more difficult where socrates gets somewhat long winded

in thesmall world of the meno one of the early platonic dialogues often crit icized for being ambiguous or inconclu sive or for being a lame and needless concession to popular morals two dis tinguished philosophers find a perspec tive on much of twentieth century philosophy according to sternfeld and zyskind the key to the meno s appeal is in its philosophy of man as acquisitive in the dialogue s notion of thought and action as a process of acquiring themeans of acquiring values and cognitions provides the context in which the mind has most direct contact with them which grounds common sense generally and ties the dialogue technically to the emphasis on the immediacies of the mind language experience and process in much of recent philosophy sternfeld and zyskind proffer platos 2 000 year old philosophy as valid still in competition with other and more modern modes of thought and suggest the need for a major turn in philosophy which can take us beyond its minimal philosophy without distorting the basic values on which the meno shows man s world to rest however precariously even today

representing a new interpretation of plato s meno this text takes and defends the position that plato s work is a self conscious analysis and assessment of the worth not of inquiry itself but more specifically of moral inquiry

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