

On Plato S Symposium

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in the renowned work *symposium* plato presents a series of philosophical dialogues centered around the theme of love known as eros set during a banquet the text unfolds as various prominent figures including socrates engage in a series of speeches that explore different dimensions of love from the physical to the divine this dialogue not only reflects plato's characteristic blend of rhetorical skill and philosophical inquiry but also situates itself within the context of classical greek thought encapsulating the tensions and aspirations of athenian society in the 4th century bc the literary style is infused with irony and allegory challenging readers to ponder the complexities of desire and the nature of beauty itself plato a student of socrates and a pivotal figure in western philosophy sought to understand the essence of human existence and the ideal forms of reality his philosophical inquiries were deeply influenced by his experiences in the

tumultuous political landscape of athens and the socratic method of questioning that shaped his intellectual pursuits these influences are evident in symposium where he crafts a compelling narrative that invites listeners to reconsider the roles of love and intellect within their lives ymposium is essential for anyone seeking to delve into the philosophical foundations of western thought it presents a rich tapestry of ideas that challenge contemporary notions of love and relationships the text is not only a cornerstone of philosophical literature but also an enduring masterpiece that resonates with the timeless quest for understanding the human condition

plato allan bloom wrote is the most erotic of philosophers and his symposium is one of the greatest works on the nature of love ever written this new edition brings together the english translation of the renowned plato scholar and translator seth benardete with two illuminating commentaries on it benardete s on plato s symposium and allan bloom s provocative essay the ladder of love in the symposium plato recounts a drinking party following an evening meal where the guests include the poet aristophanes the drunken alcibiades and of course the wise socrates the revelers give their views on the timeless topics of love and desire all the while addressing many of the major themes of platonic philosophy the relationship of philosophy and poetry the good and the beautiful

oxford approaches to classical literature series editors kathleen coleman and richard rutherford introduces individual works of greek and latin literature to readers who are approaching them for the first time each volume sets the work in its literary and historical context and aims to offer a balanced and engaging assessment of its content artistry and purpose a brief survey of the influence of the work upon subsequent generations is included to demonstrate its enduring relevance and power all quotations from the original are translated into english plato s symposium tells of a dinner party at a crucial point in athenian history at which the guests decide that they will each in turn deliver a speech in praise of love the humorous and brilliant work that follows points the way towards all western thinking about love the symposium is also one of plato s most sophisticated meditations on the practice of philosophy this book introduces the literary and historical context of plato s work surveys and explains the arguments and considers why plato has cast this work in a highly unusual narrative form a final chapter traces

the influence of the symposium from antiquity to the modern day

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

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

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

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 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

the symposium ancient greek's $\mu p\acute{s}$ is a philosophical dialogue written plato sometime after 385 bc it is a discussion on the nature of love taking the form of a group of speeches both satirical

the first major piece of unpublished work by leo strauss to appear in more than thirty years leo strauss on plato's symposium offers the public the unprecedented experience of encountering this renowned scholar as his students did given as a course in autumn 1959 under the title plato's political philosophy at the university of chicago these transcripts previously had circulated in samizdat fashion passed down from one generation of students to the next they show strauss at his best in his subtle and sometimes indirect style of analysis which has attracted almost as much commentary as has the content of his thought strauss presents a coherent and complete interpretation of the symposium proceeding by a meticulous reading from beginning to end operating on the once common hypothesis that commentary is an excellent method of expounding the truth strauss sheds light not only on the meaning of the dialogue and its place in the platonic corpus but also on a host of important topics including the nature of eros and its place in the overall economy of human life the perennial quarrel between poetry and philosophy and the relation of both to piety politics and morality the character of socrates and the questions of his trial and many other matters as provocative as they were a half century ago these important lectures will be welcomed by students of classics philosophy politics psychology and political philosophy

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

in his symposium plato crafted speeches in praise of love that has influenced writers and artists from antiquity to the present but questions remain concerning the meaning of specific features the significance of the dialogue as a whole and the character of its influence here an international team of scholars addresses such questions

plato s account of an important dialogue on the nature of love between phaedrus pausanias eryximachus aristophanes agathon socrates and alcibiades english translation with notes and introduction

being led by another to the things of love is to begin from the beauties of earth and mount upwards for the sake of that other beauty until he arrives at the notion of absolute beauty and at last knows what the essence of beauty is with these words plato invites us on his examination and exploration of the many perspectives of love the meaning of the love the highest purpose of love and the outcomes of love set at a small cocktail party plato conveys his message through the conversations that take place dialogue from symposium has been used for decades by social historians in the quest for insight into life in ancient athens particularly the sexual norms and behaviors of the time

an accessible introduction to some of the most important ideas developed in platos symposium

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

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