

# On Plato S Symposium

Symposium Plato's 'Symposium' Plato's Symposium Plato's Symposium Plato's Symposium Plato's Symposium The Symposium Symposium Plato's Symposium An Analysis of Plato's Symposium Symposium Plato's Symposium Plato: The Symposium Symposium or Drinking Party Symposium Plato's Symposium Symposium (Annotated) Plato's Symposium The Symposium and the Phaedrus Plato's Symposium and Phaedrus Plato Thomas L. Cooksey Richard L. Hunter Plato Plato By Plato Stanley Rosen Richard Ellis Plato Plato James H. Lesher Frisbee C. C. Sheffield Plato Plato Pierre Destrée Plato Plato 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

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

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

a fascinating discussion on sex gender and human instincts as relevant today as ever in the course of a lively drinking party a group of athenian intellectuals exchange views on eros or desire from their conversation emerges a series of subtle reflections on gender roles sex in society and the sublimation of basic human instincts the discussion culminates in a radical challenge to conventional views by plato s mentor socrates who advocates transcendence through spiritual love the symposium is a deft interweaving of different viewpoints and ideas about the nature of love as a response to beauty a cosmic force a motive for social action and as a means of ethical education for more than seventy years penguin has been the leading publisher of classic literature in the english speaking world with more than 1 700 titles penguin classics represents a global bookshelf of the best works throughout history and across genres and disciplines readers trust the series to provide authoritative texts enhanced by introductions and notes by distinguished scholars and contemporary authors as well as up to date translations by award winning translators

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

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 written in the late 4th century bc is a philosophical dialogue centered on speeches in praise of love the story is framed by apollodorus recounting the banquet which celebrated agathon s dramatic victory figures such as socrates phaedrus aristophanes and alcibiades each present distinct perspectives on the nature of love their speeches explore the contrast between physical desire and spiritual connection as well as the division between earthly and heavenly love ultimately the dialogue portrays love as a driving force toward virtue and wisdom in human life

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

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 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

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

the symposium is a philosophical text by plato dated c 385 370 bc it concerns itself at one level with the genesis purpose and nature of love and in latter day interpretations 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 commonly regarded as one of plato s major works the dialogue has been used as a source by social historians seeking to throw light on life in ancient athens in particular upon human sexuality and the symposium as an institution

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 eros 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

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

the symposium and the phaedrus are combined here because of their shared theme a reflection on the nature of erotic love the love that begins with sexual desire but can transcend that origin and reach even the heights of religious ecstasy this reflection is carried out explicitly in the speeches and conversations in the dialogues and implicitly in the dramatic depiction of actions and characters thus the two dialogues deal with a theme of enduring interest and are interesting for both their literary and their philosophical character in addition to the introduction the book contains substantial commentaries and thorough endnotes key greek terms are discussed for readers who are unfamiliar with the language a special feature is a discussion on the importance of the dramatic and literary aspects of the dialogues for interpreting their philosophical content the introductions deal with the nature of the dialogues themselves as philosophical texts and with plato s philosophical assumptions and key concepts as well as with the necessary background of athenian society the endnotes clarify any ambiguities and obscurities in the original text identifying all references to people places gods et cetera the commentaries are designed to open up the dialogues for the reader showing the issues that have been debated by commentators and considering some of the responses to them they are designed to stimulate further reflection

joe sachs is a national treasure his brilliant translations from the greek spanning works from homer to aristotle have long enriched scholars and students alike he crowns those achievements with this exquisite rendering of two of plato s most beautiful dialogues with an introduction that evidences his deft ability to drill down to the thing itself thomas sheehan professor emeritus of religious studies stanford university the phaedrus and symposium are plato s two dialogues about eros that is desirous longing in these new translations by former st john s college tutor joe sachs the reader imaginatively becomes a member if a silent one of the conversations socrates has with his companions while both dialogues are about love they differ in intriguing and important ways the conversation of the phaedrus takes place in the countryside and that of the symposium in athens in the phaedrus only socrates and phaedrus are present in the symposium many participate in the drinking party but in both socrates presents singularly abiding images the winged horses and chariot in the phaedrus the ladder of love in the symposium these compelling images attract and move the reader to ask questions of the dialogues

which in their unique ways seem to reply the interplay of the two texts may spark an unfolding in the reader's thinking about love the context for our thinking includes in one case the subject of tragedy and comedy in the other the nature of rhetoric and writing but it is philosophy and not poetry or politics that persistently claims the center of attention the dialogues themselves seem as different as night from day as urbane wit from rustic charm but do they point to opposing or converging attitudes toward erotic love

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