

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 At once a historical document, a philosophical drama that enacts abstract ideas in an often light-hearted way, and a literary masterpiece, it has exerted an influence that goes well beyond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 to both physical desire and 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.

Contributors

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PLATO'S *Symposium*

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PLATO'S
Symposium

A Critical Guide

Edited by
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καλῶς, ἀρχόμενοι ἀπὸ τῶνδε τῶν καλοῦ
εἰναι ἕνεκα ἔκκαλον, αἰεὶ ἐπανιέναι ὡς τὰ
παναβαθμοῖς χρωόμενον ἀπὸ ἐνός ὅτι
ἔξ ἀπὸ δυεῖν ὅτι πᾶσι τὰ καλὰ σώμα
καὶ ἀπὸ τῶν καλῶν σαμῶν ὅτι τὰ καλὰ ἔ
τηδύματα, καὶ ἀπὸ τῶν καλῶν ὅτι τηδύ
ἔτι τὰ καλὰ μαθήματα ἔς' αὐτὸ ἀπὸ τῶ
τημῶν ἐπὶ ἐκεῖνο τὸ μάθημα τελευτή
ἔστιν ὅτι ἄλλου ἢ αὐτῶν ἐκεῖνου ἔκκαλον
τημα, καὶ γὰρ αὐτὸ τελευτῶν ὅτι ἔστι καλόν.
ταῦτά τῶ βίου, ὡς Φίλε Σώκρατες, (ἐκ
"Μαιτινική ξένη) εἰς ἄρ' που ἄλλοτι, βίωσι
ἔστι τὰ θεαμενῶν αὐτὸ ὅτι καλόν. ὁ ἐάν
ἰδῆται ἔκκαλον τε ἔκκαλον τε, καὶ τοῖς
λοῖς παιδάς τε καὶ νεανίσκους δόξῃ σοὶ εἰ
νεῦ ὁρῶν ἐκπέπληξαι, καὶ ἔτοιμος εἶ καὶ σ
ἄλλοι πολλοὶ ὁρῶντες τὰ παιδικὰ, καὶ ζῶ
τες αἰεὶ αὐτοῖς, εἴπως οἶόντ' ἔω, μήτε ἐα
μήτε πίνειν, ἀλλὰ θεῶν μόνον ἔκκαλον
δῆτα (ἐφη) οἰόμεθα, εἴτω γένοιτο αὐτὸ τὸ
λὸν ἰδεῖν εἰλικρινές, καὶ θαρῶν, ἀμικτον,
καὶ ἄρ' αὐτὸ ὅτι καλόν τε ἀνθρώπων
χρωόμεν, καὶ ὁμῆς πολλῆς φλυαρίας ἔστι
ἄλλ' αὐτὸ ὅτι θεῶν, καλὸν δὲ μόνον
καὶ πᾶσι δεινῶν ὅτι οἶεῖ (ἐφη) φῶλον βίον γίγ