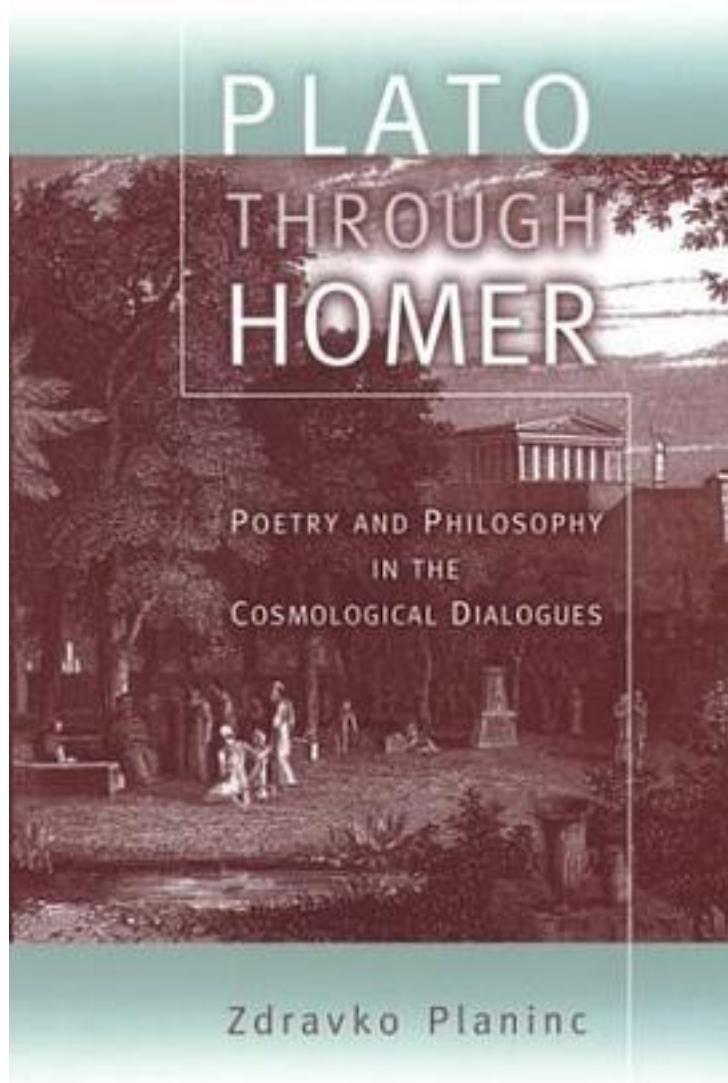


Plato through Homer



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This new study is intended to challenge traditional ways of reading Plato by showing that his philosophy and political theory cannot be understood apart from a consideration of the literary or aesthetic features of his writing. More specifically, it shows how Plato's well-known cosmological dialogues--the Phaedrus and the Timaeus-Critias--are structured using several books of the Odyssey as their common source text. While there has been some scholarly discussion of the relation between "poetry" and "philosophy" in Plato's dialogues, very little of it addresses questions central to thorough going literary criticism. Planinc's work is unique in that it shows the significance of Plato's extensive refiguring of key episodes in the Odyssey for an interpretation of his philosophy and political theory. Plato's cosmological dialogues are almost always discussed in a topical manner. The Timaeus is picked through for its theological or scientific doctrines; the Critias is reduced to its Atlantis story, or puzzled over because of its ostensible incompleteness; and the Phaedrus is found interesting because of its parallels to modern understandings of erotics or rhetoric. The dialogues are generally not considered in relation to one another, and then only in the context of developmental schemes primarily concerned with distinguishing periods in Plato's metaphysical doctrines. By exploring the full range of the many charming and intriguing things these dialogues present, Planinc treats them as a coherent, unified part of Plato's corpus. The author argues that the main literary features of the Phaedrus, Timaeus, and Critias are taken from Books VI to IX of the Odyssey, the largest part of the story of Odysseus' stay with the Phaeacians, from the time he swims to shore and encounters Nausicaa to the time he reveals his identity and begins recounting his earlier travels after hearing Demodocus's songs. Plato through Homer is not intended to challenge traditional scholarship for the sake of novelty. It is a new approach to Plato's texts that illuminates their literary and philosophic significance and highlights their enduring appeal.

作者介绍:

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标签

荷马

柏拉图

思想史

古典学

评论

不太认同我们这一代有所谓哲学的可能，有很多科学和人的存在积累和储备，但不会有哲学风格的形成，沉醉过盛，可以策略性的按照语文学和人类学两者保留哲学的领地，进入广场演讲，席卷身体，建一所大学，临界和中央共同消失在这一所房间里，提不起力气放不下空，痛苦消失了，诗歌时代，英雄毁于青年之手？

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书评

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