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Laurence Jay Rosán's *The Philosophy of Proclus*, subtitled *The Final Phase of Ancient Thought*, has long been considered one of the finest overviews of late Platonic teaching: first published in 1949 it helped bring about a re-evaluation of Proclus and his work by modern scholars. Its clear and sympathetic approach to its subject allows the reader to follow, in the words of Rosán, "one of the most fascinating dialectics the human mind has conceived."

The philosophy of Proclus, built as it was on more than a thousand years of vigorous development by a series of profound philosophers and theologians, represents the last age in the West in which the highest human endeavours in philosophy, religion, science and art, were still united and integrated. In Proclus we find philosophy as inner discipline – a path to enlightenment – and his writings represent a fruition of a tradition which can be traced back though lamblichus, Plotinus, Aristotle, Plato, Parmenides, Pythagoras, Homer, and, ultimately to its most ancient stirrings in Egypt. Proclus draws from ancient mystery celebrations, mythological dramas, inspired oracles, as well as from the truly scientific philosophy of Plato, in order to present to the meditative student a system at once full of truth and profoundly beautiful. To this comprehensive philosophy Rosán displays no small skill in finding a way to provide his readers with a framework for its initial consideration.

This new edition benefits from a revised bibliography kindly provided by Christoph Helmig and Sabrina Lange of Humboldt-Universität Berlin.

# An Index to Plato - A Subject Index using Stephanus pagination 192 pp Hardback 978-1-898910-343 £11

This subject index is an invaluable aid to the study of Plato's writings and will be of use both to those who are familiar with his works and those who are coming anew to them. The index refers to the Stephanus pagination so that it can be used with any translation that includes this standard numbering. The main part of the index is a reproduction of the one that was compiled for Jowett's 1891 Plato. A number of further entries have been added, and a small index to the Epistles of Plato (I to XII) is also included.

# The Seven Myths of the Soul - Tim Addey 270pp, 8 colour prints, paperbackk, ISBN 978-1898910-374 £12.95

For more than one thousand years, the Pythagorean and Platonic philosophers of antiquity visited and revisited their primeval mythological heritage which was the living heart of their pagan religion, art and science. In earliest antiquity the inner truths of myth were held to be suitable only for those who had undergone the initiations and training of mystery cults and academies of philosophy, and were communicated in secret and guarded language; in later antiquity, circumstances forced their interpreters to become more open and commit their insights to writing. It is these writings upon which Tim Addey draws in order to present to the non-specialist reader a philosophic interpretation of the beautiful and powerful myths of the Greeks. *The Seven Myths of the Soul* is based on a passage from Damascius, the last head of Plato's Academy in Athens:

The Soul descends into generation, after the manner of Kore;
She is scattered by generation, after the manner of Dionysus;
Like Prometheus and the Titans, she is bound to body.
She frees herself by exercising the strength of Heracles;
Gathers herself together through the help of Apollo
And the Savior Athene, by truly purifying philosophy;
And she elevates herself to the causes of her being with Demeter.

In the stories of Persephone (Kore), Dionysus, Prometheus, Heracles, Apollo, Athene and Demeter the trials, initiations and ultimate triumph of each human soul are outlined in mystical symbols. For those seeking soul wisdom this book provides the starting point for a cycle of profound meditations.

# Platonism and the World Crisis - John M Dillon, Brendan O'Byrne, Tim Addey 80pp, p/back, ISBN 978-1898910-558 £6

Humanity faces a number of pressing problems – ecological, religious and political. In the 2006 inaugural lecture of a continuing series at the Dublin Centre for the Study of the Platonic Tradition given under the general title of 'Platonism and the World Crisis', John M Dillon put forward a number of bold and radical solutions to these problems, drawn from the Platonic tradition. This book presents an essay based on that lecture, together with two further essays – *The Urgency of Platonism: the Philosophical Background to the World Crisis* by Brendan O'Byrne, and *Towards a Philosophic Democracy* by Tim Addey. Together the three essays question the assumptions and goals of modernism, offering the reader intelligent alternatives to the seemingly unstoppable march of humanity towards the destruction of itself and its environment.

In a world in which an increasing number of thinkers are urgently looking for new solutions to emerging problems, here is evidence that the best answers have been waiting quietly for at least two and a half thousand years – waiting for us to notice the continuing relevance of the profound wisdom of the Platonic tradition.

# Towards the Noosphere; Futures Singular and Plural John M Dillon, Stephen R L Clark 80pp, p/back, ISBN 978-1898910-602 £6

This paperback continues the explorations begun in the Prometheus Trust's small paperback *Platonism and the World Crisis*. The two essays contained in this new book address the broad question, "What is to be done?" In the first, *Towards the Noosphere*, Professor John M Dillon explores the writings of Plotinus, Origen, and Teilhard de Chardin in order to consider the nature of the universe in which we live - and from their insights to consider the goals towards which we strive. In the second, *Futures Singular and Plural*, Professor Stephen R L Clark examines further speculations upon these matters from more recent theorists writing in disciplines of philosophy, science and science fiction.

### Release Thyself: Three Philosophic Dialogues

### Guy Wyndham-Jones

### 160 pp Paperback ISBN 978-1898910-565 £10

The Therapon, The Alphaeus, The Platon. Being a tribute to, and a celebration of, Socrates, Plato and the golden Platonic Tradition.

This volume of dialogues in the Platonic style is an offering of thanks by the author to those great heroes of the Platonic tradition who have set before the human race living images of wisdom. The dialogues are centred around Socrates and Plato, and as the author writes, "I have merely attempted to imagine certain occasions that may or may not have happened, and certain subjects of conversation that may or may not have been examined and rigorously explored."

Three dialogues - The Therapon, The Alphaeus and The Platon - are written in the Platonic style. The Therapon is an imagined exchange of ideas between Socrates and his jailer during Socrates' last night on Earth: it is sub-titled On the Nature of Ideas. The Alphaeus starts with a wealthy and self-satisfied man attacking Socrates and his philosophical ways soon after he has been charged to appear before the court of Athens - but ends with dramatic changes: it is sub-titled Concerning Human Happiness. The Platon explores what might have passed between Socrates and Plato during their last meeting together: it is sub-titled On Soul.

The Platonic tradition is both old and young but the vital subjects to which it addresses itself are those of perpetual importance to rational beings such as ourselves – the nature of the human self, of the good life, of the great universe in which we find ourselves, and of its source. In these three new dialogues we find these subjects discussed in earnest: answers are offered but in such a way as to stimulate the reader's own thoughts about these matters – and this is the key to the tradition: for unless questions are genuinely thought through by the reader, any answers suggested by the author are merely another set of opinions.

### A Casting of Light by the Platonic Tradition

### Adapted by Guy Wyndham-Jones

### 120pp Hardback ISBN: 978-1898910-572 £12

Sometimes it is necessary to cut back in order to strengthen life. We live in a world already saturated with the printed word, and beginning a second inundation of the electronic word: we are in danger of allowing the mind to become servant to the tongue, the pen and the keyboard. Here is a small book which hopes to reverse the tide: here is a little crystal cup dipped into the great flood of words, and in its measure of bright delight, it offers refreshment and music to the soul.

The best writers in the Platonic tradition have been sensitive to the pulse and rhythm of the universe and

#### The Beautiful Essence

Where can there be any thing beautiful, Deprived of being?
And where again can essence abide,
If it wants the presence of beauty?
For while beauty is taken away,
Essence is destroyed.
On this account being itself is desirable,
Because being, and beauty are the same:
And the beautiful is lovely;
Because it is being.

their works resonate with it: they knew the processions which emerged from the still and silent centre, and the reversions of all things back to that centre which is the Good. Above is an example, from Plotinus. The adaptor writes, "The following work illustrates the music of philosophy, to be found within the prose of the philosophers of the Platonic tradition. It is a little book of beauty and of truth; and the pieces it contains are as I heard them, while I listened to their various voices over an extended period of time. Each piece is a meditation in itself. The intention of this book is to inspire . . ."

### The Song of Proclus

### Adapted by Guy Wyndham-Jones

### 128pp Hardback ISBN: 978-1898910-626 £15

From the introduction: "The numerous offerings in this little book will present you with a flavour of both the nature and scope of the beautiful vision of this extraordinary lover of wisdom [Proclus]; and they will illustrate the music of philosophy, to be found within the prose of the philosophers of the Platonic tradition. Together they represent the Song of Proclus; and each piece is a meditation in itself."

#### The Chant of Plotinus

### Adapted by Guy Wyndham-Jones

### 128pp Hardback ISBN: 978-1898910-657 £12

From the introduction: "My own experience, from frequent and prolonged reading of the various works of Plotinus, is that it often appears as if I am listening to a dialogue, an interior dialogue, between the man and his deepest self; but at other times it is as if he is talking directly to the soul of the reader, calmly yet firmly demanding a kind of clarity of thought and concentration which is both rare and to a certain degree unnecessary in ordinary daily life; and yet at other times it is as if he is

#### Filled with Nectar

Every soul when on high
Is conversant with sublime concerns,
Governs the whole world, and ascends,
Together with the presiding Gods,
To the contemplation of the felicitous
And most perfect energy
Of truly existing being,
And surveying all the forms that it contains,
Is filled with the nectar which is there . . .

### The Cause of Union

Soul first sees the intellect which she contains, But the vision proceeds into her, And the two become one.

The Good, however,
Extending itself to these,
And adapting itself to the condition of both,
Runs above them,
And uniting the two,
Imparts to them a blessed sensation
And vision.

chanting to an audience, either present or imagined, intimate yet vast, and drawing it into a truly psychical world of profound investigation and dialectic inspection. He does not seem to write merely for the sake of necessity, but because he desires from his soul to talk with whoever is willing and ready to listen and engage with him – and I can only imagine that he wrote as he thought and as he spoke: which is one reason why his pieces are so vibrant and vital, as one is engaged with a whole soul immediately present."

#### The Music of Plato

### Adapted by Guy Wyndham-Jones

#### 128pp Hardback ISBN: 978-1898910-671 £12

At once scientific, full of reasons, enlightening, controversial, divisive, beautiful, accurate and mystical, the words of Plato have resounded through the years, until all who look at philosophy look at Plato and all who look at Plato look at philosophy – so central has been his music to all subsequent

#### Gaining Empire

Every king is able to do
But a little with his hands,
And the whole of his body,
Towards the possession of empire,
But much by the wisdom
And strength of his soul.

generations of seeking souls. The tradition he generated lives on until this day and will continue for so long as the love of wisdom inspires mankind. It is replete with golden links and precious gems, the souls of men and women imbued with such a love, like a glittering chain about the breast of the goddess, radiating such wisdom and beauty as they are truly able. It is the friend of every other tradition that places the wisdom of the good at its head; and as Philosophy is the mother, so the Platonic Tradition is one of her most beautiful offspring.

### The Hymn of Thomas Taylor Adapted by Guy Wyndham-Jones

### 128pp Hardback ISBN: 978-1898910-688 £12

Transcending the limitations of his birth, his education, his health and any desires for personal comfort, Thomas Taylor dedicated his life to the understanding and promotion of the philosophy of the Platonic tradition – for no other reason than it is of the greatest good for humanity upon this earth – and in this, he left to us such a remarkable body of work, that it is difficult to comprehend that this was the production of one man in one life; surely only enabled through inspiration and by divine allotment. Surrounded by ignorant contempt in his time he ever kept his

By Night

As Penelope,
Who is the image of Philosophy,
Unwove by night
What she had woven by day,
So Ignorance reweaves
What Philosophy unweaves.

eye upon the goal, and in the fervent hope that a more enlightened posterity would appreciate, embrace and continue the work.....and I join with him in that hope and that the anticipated time is now.

# A Flight of Souls: Invocations and Songs Edited by Guy Wyndham-Jones

### 160 pp Hardback ISBN 978-1898910-695 £14

The spontaneous urge to give thanks for goods received is natural to the human condition. All the pieces in this little book, drawn from the Platonic tradition of philosophy, are genuine expressions of such thanks; and of certainty, faith, truth, belief, need, experience and love. Aesthetics alone should be put aside when considering or using these invocations and songs, as they are regarding subjects which defy commonplace modes of expression.

This book has some seventy-five devotional pieces drawn from the many centuries of philosophical experience, including passages from Homer, the Orphic Hymns, Plato, Plotinus, Iamblichus, Proclus, Thomas Taylor and several modern writers. The Platonic tradition is very much alive and Philosophy continues to sing through this tradition's years and life, for the well-being and the good of all – and so this book seeks to inspire its readers.

# Song of the Solipsistic One Deepa Majumdar

### 192 pp Hardback ISBN 978-1898910-633 £16

This anthology consists of 70 poems, on philosophical topics such as the One, The Divine Name, Cosmic Union, Cosmology, Cosmic Illusion, Afterlife, Self, Imagination, Desires, Thoughts, Body, Love, Virtue, Beauty, Time, Eternity, History, Death.

"My influences are many, but my inspiration remains the perennial, universal mystic vision of oneness. I admire greatly the depth of thought in the works of western thinkers like Plato, Plotinus, William Wordsworth, Emily Brontë and Bertrand Russell ... but my ultimate inspiration comes from the great sages and poet seers of the Indian tradition, whose highest trans-discursive experiences have shaped the basic vision of Advaita Vedanta. My work is rooted in a consistent existential- theological-metaphysical paradigm drawn from this Advaitic experience... This vision asserts that there is, in the end, only one Reality – namely God (Brahman). Inasmuch as this solitary Reality is the universal Self – a supreme object-free Subject – it becomes the solipsistic One. When this Reality enters human history ... that is, when the Infinite appears in the guise of the finite ... it comes in the form of the Divine Incarnation or Avatara.

In this work, I envision the Divine, poetically, as a magnificent Sun ... coiling round and round ... animated by the twin powers of contemplation and aspiration. Our human prayers and meditation rotate this flaming wheel. But the whirling Sun, in turn, attracts to itself thought lanterns from the human mind."

### **Selections from the Prometheus Trust Conferences 2006-2010**

### **Edited by Linda H Woodward**

#### 224 pp Paperback ISBN 978-1898910-664 £12

It is a delight to present to the reading public a selection of 14 papers presented at the first five annual conferences of the Prometheus Trust: in making our selection we have attempted to reflect the nature of these conferences which bring together academic specialists, academics stepping outside their specialism, and non-academics. The contributors are, we hope, drawn by a common love of wisdom so that each is willing to cross those mental boundaries which habit so often allows – almost unnoticed – to circumscribe our understanding, and each is willing to share the insights of their own pursuit of truth in whatever fields and down whatever paths they have chosen.

### Deep Philosophy, Deep Ecology

### **Edited by Mary-Ann Crumplin**

288pp Paperback ISBN: 978-1898910-701 £12

#### Contents:

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The Intelligible Intricacy of the Natural World - Ann van Ryn

An Ecstatic Naturalist Approach to the Anthropocene - Marilynn Lawrence

Navigating the Anthropocene: Insights from the Wisdom of the Corpus Hermeticum - Sally Jeanrenaud & Jean-Paul Jeanrenaud

How Lockean Influence May Contribute to an Ecological Ethos - Paul Fagan

Thinking Ecologically: a post-Enlightenment perspective - Eccy de Jonge

Returning to Wonder - Mary-Ann Crumplin

Do the Deepest Roots of a Future Ecological Civilization Lie in Chinese Soil? - Freya Mathews

The Relation of Crisis to Constant Order - Robert Bolton

Graveyard, incubator or something much stranger? Blind World or Multiworlds versus Deep Ecology and Neoplatonism - Kevin Corrigan

# Discovering the Beauty of Wisdom Mindy Mandell

#### 372 pp Paperback ISBN 9781898910725 £12

What does it mean to follow Platonic philosophy as a spiritual path - to take the words of the ancient Platonists seriously and to explore them as a guide for the inner life? This book tackles that question by presenting the philosophy of the Platonic tradition from a perspective that is informed by a personal commitment of many years' standing. The author writes, "Once I found Platonism, I never looked back. This is a tradition that is both deeply spiritual and also rigorous in its treatment of metaphysics. The language of pure metaphysics presents the study of the divine essence of Reality in terms that are not limited to any single religious tradition. The Platonists instead speak straight to the soul."

# The Collected Works of Thomas Moore Johnson: The Great American Platonist 432 pp Hardback ISBN 978-1898910-824 £18

Thomas Moore Johnson (1851-1919) can rightly be said to be a great American Platonist: he was one of a number of men and women of that period who sought to promulgate the philosophy of the Platonic tradition as a spiritual and intellectual discipline. Had not the tide of rationalist and sceptical thinking run so strongly in the last one hundred years, Johnson – along with his fellow philosophers such as Hiram K Jones, William Torrey Harris and Bronson Alcott – would today be recognised as a great contributor to the cause of true philosophy in the modern west. Johnson edited two journals, *The Platonist* and *Bibliotheca Platonica*, between 1880 and 1890, as well as publishing three books in the following years.

#### Contents:

Iamblichus' Exhortation to Philosophy (or Protrepticus) \*\* Fragments from the Epistles of Iamblichus

Proclus' Elements of Theology (or Metaphysics) \*\* Fragments of Ammonias Saccas

Proclus on the Chaldean Oracles \*\* Two Hymns of Synesius

Six treatises from Plotinus' Enneads:-

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On the Essence of the Soul (2) IV, ii

\*\* On the Descent into Body IV, viii

Intelligibles not external to Mind, and on the Good V, v \*\* Diverse Cogitations III, ix

Original Writings:- Plato's Basic Concepts; \*\* Plato and his Writings; \*\*The Platonic Theory of Education;

\*\* Plato and his Philosophy; \*\* Three Fundamental Ideas of the Human Mind

### The Orphic Poems M L West

### 308pp Hardback ISBN 978-1898910-848 £25.00

Recent archaeological discoveries together with modern explorations of the continuing power of myth to convey profound insights into theological, human and cosmological matters have combined to encourage a significant growth in general and scholarly interest in Orphic texts. An important influence on Plato and the Platonic tradition, the Orphic myths speak of the mysteries of the unfolding universe and the journeyings of the soul within its coils.

Martin West's *Orphic Poems*, first published in 1983, continues to be regarded as essential reading for those engaged in Orphic Studies. One reviewer summarized it with these words, "This literary history of Orphic poetry represents a pioneering achievement, and is unlikely to be bettered until new textual evidence comes to light." Martin West (1937 - 2015) was one of the leading scholars of his generation – his work focused upon archaic and classical Greek poetry, but to this area of learning he brought a breadth of understanding which drew upon many cultures of the ancient world. An obituary in the *Independent* enthused, "Martin West's achievements stagger every classicist – but he himself was not staggered. He worked on, matter-of-factly, producing endless illuminating books. . . His mode of scholarship displayed an impressive straightforwardness and cohesion. It did not claim to cover all aspects of Greek literature that matter; but his whole approach, monumentally realised, will lastingly challenge and enlighten classicists. That approach is as important as the individual discoveries, which can scarcely be numbered."

# Plato Speaks Andrew Domanski

### 256pp Paperback ISBN: 978-1898910-718 £9

Selected passages from Plato's *Republic* with facing commentary: Plato has justly been called the teacher of the West. This book is intended for the reader who would like to engage with the words of Plato at a level which does not require the unaided reading of an entire dialogue. On every left-hand page, the reader will find, in translation, a passage from Plato's most famous dialogue, the *Republic*, and on the facing right-hand page, a commentary on that passage. The commentaries attempt to draw out Plato's meaning for the benefit of those readers who require elucidation of the texts. The book is not 'Plato made easy', for that would be an injustice to Plato: rather, it seeks to show that the teaching of Plato is clear and accessible, if not always easy. The book will have succeeded in its principal aim if the reader feels encouraged to proceed to the reading of one or more entire dialogues of Plato

# Anthologies from the International Society for Neoplatonic Studies

### Metaphysical Patterns in Platonism

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### 256 pp Paperback ISBN 978-1898910-831 £12

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The Transcendence of Sophia in Plotinus' Treatise On Intelligible Beauty - Daniele Bertini;

The Good's Beauty is Above Beauty: Plotinus' Argument In Ennead VI.7- Martin Achard;

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# Edited by John F Finamore and Danielle A. Layne

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### Platonism and its Legacy

### Edited by John F Finamore and Tomáš Nejeschleba

### 440pp Paperback ISBN: 978-1898910-886 £12

This anthology of 23 essays by scholars from around the world is published in association with the ISNS: it contains many of the papers presented in their 2017 annual conference. Contents:

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Eros as Soul's 'Eye' in Plotinus: What does it see and not see? Lela Alexidze

Eternity and Time in Porphyry, Sentence 44 Lenka Karfíková

Gender construction and social connections in Porphyry's Ad Marcellam Mathilde Cambron-Goulet

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