



The Essence of Truth: On Plato's Cave Allegory and Theaetetus (Impacts)

By Martin Heidegger

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The Essence of Truth must count as one of Heidegger's most important works, for nowhere else does he give a comparably thorough explanation of what is arguably the most fundamental and abiding theme of his entire philosophy, namely the difference between truth as the "unhiddenness of beings" and truth as the "correctness of propositions". For Heidegger, it is by neglecting the former primordial concept of truth in favor of the latter derivative concept that Western philosophy, beginning already with Plato, took off on its "metaphysical" course towards the bankruptcy of the present day.

This first ever translation into English consists of a lecture course delivered by Heidegger at the University of Freiburg in 1931-32. Part One of the course provides a detailed analysis of Plato's allegory of the cave in the Republic, while Part Two gives a detailed exegesis and interpretation of a central section of Plato's Theaetetus, and is essential for the full understanding of his later well-known essay Plato's Doctrine of Truth. As always with Heidegger's writings on the Greeks, the point of his interpretative method is to bring to light the original meaning of philosophical concepts, especially to free up these concepts to their intrinsic power.

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Editorial Review

Review

“Finally a short note on the book. Ted Sadler’s writing is an example to the general reader of how to read philosophical texts slowly, as one reads poems, of the encounter with ‘the art of going slowly [following] Heidegger’s conviction that philosophy, genuinely undertaken and carried through, subverts the impatient “hunger for results” so characteristic of the modern age’ [x-xi]. Within the world of scholarship this is a classic that will certainly stimulate any future discussion, but on Heidegger’s terms.” –Francesco Tampozia, Philosophy in Review/ Comptes Rendus Philosophiques, January 2004-June 2004

About the Author

Martin Heidegger (1889-1976) is regarded as one of the twentieth century's most important philosophers.

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