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PLOTINUS, SELF AND THE WORLD

Plotinus, Self and the World addresses the question of the individual subject in its relationship with the world, the 'All'. It traces the self through its experience of memory and forgetfulness, looks at whether the idea of the subconscious exists in Plotinus, and notes the probable impact of Plotinus' thought on the development of the autobiography, in the form of Augustine's *Confessions*. Augustine historicises the Plotinian individual self. The book reinterprets the idea of *to oikeion* in Plotinus and places great emphasis on the importance of the idea of 'having', and the ability to possess is itself linked to being; thus we are close to the idea of personal authenticity. Lastly, the book examines Plotinus' view of images and art, and notes his respect for the beauty of the human face. His positive view of the physical world is stressed.

RAOUL MORTLEY is Professor and Dean in the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Bond University.

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Preface

This book owes its development to a number of lectures and seminars, and the attendant discussion, given over the years at the Collège de France, the Sorbonne, the Ecole Pratique des Hautes Etudes, the Institut de Philosophie, the Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique, and King's College London. I would like to express my grateful thanks for these opportunities to Michel Tardieu, Monique Dixsaut, Philippe Hoffmann, Anca Vasiliu and Richard Sorabji (and David Papineau), as well as to my old friend and interlocutor Annick Charles-Saget. It also owes a great deal to the work and friendship of the late Jean Pépin, to whom I would like to pay tribute as having had an especially important place in my life. My wife, Miranda, has been particularly supportive of me and my work on this project: to her, grateful thanks.

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