

## PLATO'S *CHARMIDES*

Plato's *Charmides* is a rich mix of drama and argument. Raphael Woolf offers a comprehensive interpretation of its disparate elements that pays close attention to its complex and layered structure, and to the methodology of reading Plato. He thus aims to present a compelling and unified interpretation of the dialogue as a whole. The book mounts a strong case for the formal separation of Plato the author from his character Socrates, and for the *Charmides* as a Platonic defence of the written text as a medium for philosophical reflection. It lays greater emphasis than other readings on the centrality of eros to an understanding of Socratic procedure in the *Charmides*, and on how the dialogue's erotic and medical motifs work together. The book's critical engagement with the dialogue allows a worked-out account to be given of how temperance, the central object of enquiry in the work, is to be conceived.

RAPHAEL WOOLF is a professor of philosophy at King's College London. He has published widely on Greek and Roman philosophy, including many articles on Plato. Recent books include *Rereading Ancient Philosophy: Old Chestnuts and Sacred Cows* (co-edited with Verity Harte, 2017); *Cicero: The Philosophy of a Roman Sceptic* (2015); and *Aristotle: Eudemean Ethics* (co-edited and translated with Brad Inwood, 2013).

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# PLATO'S *CHARMIDES*

RAPHAEL WOOLF

*King's College London*



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## Contents

<i>Acknowledgements</i>	<i>page</i>	ix
1 Introduction: Content, Methodology, Structure		I
1.1 An Outline of the <i>Charmides</i>		I
1.2 Two Methodological Principles		4
1.3 The Principle of Agnosticism		5
1.4 The Principle of Separation		11
1.5 The Structure of the <i>Charmides</i> : Vertical and Horizontal		16
1.6 Vertical Structure: My Reading of the <i>Charmides</i>		17
1.7 Vertical Structure: A Puzzle of Interpretation		19
1.8 Vertical Structure: Addressing the Puzzle		25
2 The Stance of Enquiry: Five Examples		30
2.1 The Perspective of Socrates		30
2.2 Testimony and Self-Knowledge		39
2.3 Abstract and Concrete		45
2.4 Nature and Nurture		50
2.5 Fiction and History		53
2.6 Conclusion		58
3 Charmides, Eros and the Unity of the Dialogue		60
3.1 Charmides' Entrance		61
3.2 Humour and Perspective		63
3.3 Subjecthood, Conversation and Truth		65
3.4 From Body to Soul		68
3.5 Eros, Looking and Talking		73
3.6 Temperance and the Turn to Medicine		80
3.7 Practical Knowledge		90
3.8 The Treatment of Charmides		97
3.9 Beauty at Bay		109
3.10 Interpreting Critias		124
3.11 Eros as Unifier		132
3.12 Temperance as a Form of Attention		138
3.13 Conclusion		144

4	Interpreting Temperance	145
4.1	A Merely Verbal Disagreement?	146
4.2	A Question of Status	152
4.3	Reading the Mind of God	155
4.4	Knowing What One Believes	161
4.5	Knowledge and Method	164
4.6	The Socratic Turn	169
4.7	Socrates' Challenge I	173
4.8	Socrates' Challenge II	179
4.9	The Role of Aporia	182
4.10	Knowing That and Knowing What	186
4.11	The Case of Medicine	192
4.12	Knowledge, Benefit and Utopia	197
4.13	Benefit without Utopia	202
4.14	Conclusion	207
5	The Art of Self-Realisation	208
5.1	Knowing What One Thinks	210
5.2	The Structured Self	218
5.3	Temperance and Self-Care	222
5.4	Socrates and Self-Realisation	226
5.5	The Life of Temperance	230
5.6	Temperance and Discipline	233
5.7	The Good of Self-Realisation	236
5.8	The Return of Eros	245
5.9	Plato versus Socrates	252
6	Conclusion: The <i>Charmides</i> as a Written Work	253
	<i>References</i>	257
	<i>Index of Ancient Passages</i>	268
	<i>General Index</i>	270



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