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Gods and Divine Mediators
Carl Séan O'Brien
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THE DEMIURGE IN ANCIENT THOUGHT

How was the world generated and how does matter continue to be ordered so that the world can continue functioning? Questions like these have existed as long as humanity has been capable of rational thought. In antiquity, Plato's *Timaeus* introduced the concept of the Demiurge, or Craftsman-god, to answer them. This lucid and wide-ranging book argues that the concept of the Demiurge was highly influential on the many discussions operating in Middle Platonist, Gnostic, Hermetic and Christian contexts in the first three centuries AD. It explores key metaphysical problems such as the origin of evil, the relationship between matter and the First Principle and the deployment of ever-increasing numbers of secondary deities to insulate the First Principle from the sensible world. It also focuses on the decreasing importance of demiurgy in Neoplatonism, with its postulation of procession and return.

CARL SÉAN O'BRIEN is Alexander von Humboldt Fellow in the Department of Philosophy at Ruprecht-Karls-Universität Heidelberg and Research Associate, Centre for the Study of the Platonic Tradition, Trinity College, Dublin.

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*For my mother, Gloria, who first placed me
upon the path of scholarship*

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Abbreviations

<i>Abr.</i>	Philo, <i>De Abrahamo</i>
<i>Acad.</i>	Cicero, <i>Academica</i>
<i>Adv. Haer.</i>	Irenaeus, <i>Adversus Haereses</i>
<i>Aet.</i>	Philo, <i>De Aeternitate Mundi</i>
<i>Agr.</i>	Philo, <i>De Agricultura</i>
<i>CCels.</i>	Origen, <i>Contra Celsum</i>
<i>CE</i>	Gregory of Nyssa, <i>Contra Eunomium</i>
<i>CH</i>	<i>Corpus Hermeticum</i>
<i>Charm.</i>	Plato, <i>Charmides</i>
<i>Cher.</i>	Philo, <i>De Cherubim</i>
<i>CMt.</i>	Origen, <i>Commentary on Matthew</i>
<i>Comm in Met.</i>	Alexander of Aphrodisias, <i>Commentary on Aristotle's Metaphysics</i>
<i>Comm. Jn.</i>	Origen, <i>Commentary on John</i>
<i>Conf.</i>	Philo, <i>De Confusione Linguarum</i>
<i>Decal.</i>	Philo, <i>De Decalogo</i>
<i>De Comm. Notit.</i>	Plutarch, <i>De Communibus Notitiis adversus Stoicos</i>
<i>De Fato</i>	Pseudo-Plutarch, <i>De Fato</i>
<i>De Mund.</i>	Aristotle, <i>De Mundo</i>
<i>De Plat.</i>	Apuleius, <i>De Platone</i>
<i>De An. Proc.</i>	Plutarch, <i>De Animae Procreatione in Timaeo</i>
<i>De Stoic. Rep.</i>	Plutarch, <i>De Stoicorum Repugnantiis</i>
<i>Det.</i>	Philo, <i>Quod Deterius Potiori Insidiari Solet</i>
<i>Deus</i>	Philo, <i>Quod Deus Sit Immutabilis</i>
<i>De Vir. Inl.</i>	Jerome, <i>De Viris Illustribis</i>
<i>Didasc.</i>	Alcinous, <i>Didaskalikos</i>
<i>DK</i>	Diels-Kranz

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DL	Diogenes Laertius, <i>Lives and Opinions of Eminent Philosophers</i>
<i>Ebr.</i>	Philo, <i>De Ebrietate</i>
<i>Enn.</i>	Plotinus, <i>Enneads</i>
<i>Epist. Philipp. Ap. Dem.</i>	Demosthenes, <i>Reply to Philip</i>
<i>Euthph.</i>	Plato, <i>Euthyphro</i>
<i>Fug.</i>	Philo, <i>De Fuga et Inventione</i>
GA	Aristotle, <i>De Generatione Animalium</i>
<i>Gig.</i>	Philo, <i>De Gigantibus</i>
<i>Her.</i>	Philo, <i>Quis Rerum Divinarum Heres Sit</i>
<i>Hom. Gen.</i>	Origen, <i>Homilies on Genesis</i>
IG9	<i>Inscriptiones Graecae</i> vol. ix
<i>In Tim.</i>	Calcidius, <i>Commentary on Timaeus</i>
<i>Leg. All.</i>	Philo, <i>Legum Allegoriae</i>
<i>Mut.</i>	Philo, <i>De Mutatione Nominum</i>
ND	Cicero, <i>De Natura Deorum</i>
NHC	Nag Hammadi Corpus
<i>Opif.</i>	Philo, <i>De Opificio Mundi</i>
<i>Or.</i>	Dio Chrysostom, <i>Orationes</i>
PA	Aristotle, <i>De Partibus Animalium</i>
<i>Phileb.</i>	Plato, <i>Philebus</i>
<i>Phys.</i>	Simplicius, <i>On Aristotle's Physics</i>
<i>Plant.</i>	Philo, <i>De Plantatione</i>
<i>Post.</i>	Philo, <i>De Posteritate Caini</i>
<i>Praep. Ev.</i>	Eusebius, <i>Praeparatio Evangelica</i>
<i>Princ.</i>	Origen, <i>De Principiis</i>
<i>Prov.</i>	<i>Book of Proverbs</i>
<i>Ps.-Plutarch Plac.</i>	Pseudo-Plutarch, <i>De Placitis Philosophorum</i>
QE	Philo, <i>Quaestiones in Exodum</i>
QG	Philo, <i>Quaestiones et Solutiones in Genesim</i>
<i>Ref.</i>	Pseudo-Hippolytus, <i>Refutatio omnium haeresium</i> (= <i>Philosophumena</i>)
<i>Rep.</i>	Plato, <i>Republic</i>
<i>Somn.</i>	Philo, <i>De Somniis</i>
<i>Soph.</i>	Plato, <i>Sophist</i>
<i>Spec.</i>	Philo, <i>De Specialibus Legibus</i>
<i>Stat.</i>	Plato, <i>Statesman</i>
SVF	<i>Stoicorum Veterum Fragmenta</i>
<i>Sym.</i>	Plato, <i>Symposium</i>
<i>Theaet.</i>	Plato, <i>Theaetetus</i>

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<i>Theol. Arith.</i>	Iamblichus, <i>The Theology of Arithmetic</i>	
<i>Thuc.</i>	Thucydides, <i>History of the Peloponnesian War</i>	
<i>Tim.</i>	Plato, <i>Timaeus</i>	
<i>TLG</i>	<i>Thesaurus Linguae Graecae</i>	
<i>TP</i>	Proclus, <i>Platonic Theology</i>	