

SEARCHING FOR THE DIVINE IN PLATO AND ARISTOTLE

To scholars of ancient philosophy, *theoria* denotes abstract thinking, with both Plato and Aristotle employing the term to signify philosophical contemplation. Yet it is surprising for some to find an earlier, traditional meaning referring to travel to festivals and shrines. In an attempt to dissolve the problem of equivocal reference, Julie Ward's book seeks to illuminate the nature of traditional *theoria* as ancient festival-attendance as well as the philosophical account developed in Plato and Aristotle. First, she examines the traditional use referring to periodic festivals, including their complex social and political arrangements, then she considers the subsequent use by Plato and Aristotle. Broadly speaking, she discerns a common thread running throughout both uses: namely, the notion of having a visual experience of the sacred or divine. Thus her book aims to illuminate the nature of philosophical *theoria* described by Plato and Aristotle in light of traditional, festival *theoria*.

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Frontmatter
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Philosophical Theoria and Traditional Practice

JULIE K. WARD

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Acknowledgments

The classical scholar Ian Rutherford notes that the timing of the ancient embassy to Delphi was determined by those set to watch for lightning over Harma on Mt. Parnes, which, in being infrequent, led to the saying “When the lightning flashes on Harma” used in reference to things happening rarely or late. He thus employs the metaphor to describe his research that extended from the 1980s to the 2000s, culminating in the publication of his monumental work on *theoria* in 2013 (Rutherford 2013, xvii). In a more modest context, I would like to redeploy the image to describe the development of the present book that spanned over a decade, with much time spent researching outside my area of ancient philosophy. During this period, I have benefited from scholarly and personal help from various sources including formal readers, conference audiences, students, friends, and family. Beginning with the most immediate group, I thank my family, primarily Ezio Vailati, for frequent critical discussions. As well, I am grateful to my friends and past colleagues, particularly those in Classical Studies at Loyola University, including Drs. Greg Dubrov (now deceased), Laura Galinsky, Pat Graham, Jim Keenan, Brian Lavelle, and Jackie Long, for sharing their knowledge both in writing and informal conversation. In the group of classicists, I also express deep thanks to Dr. Elizabeth Asmis (University of Chicago) who graciously agreed to read an early draft of the book, giving me essential, critical advice. My gratitude is also directed to past graduate students (now postgraduates) who contributed to early discussions about Aristotle and Plato on *theoria* or provided editorial assistance, including Drs. Jean Clifford, Robby Duncan, Marcella Russo Linn, and Carlo Tarantino. Next, I thank Drs. Daryl Tress and Tony Preus, organizers of Society of Ancient Greek Philosophy Conferences, where papers on Plato and Aristotle on philosophical *theoria* were presented. In a related vein, I am grateful to Dr. Owen Goldin and the organizers of the Marquette Summer Seminar on Aristotle and Aristotelianism, and to Dr. Nicoletta Scotti, for opportunities

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Abbreviations

Aristotle

<i>An. Po.</i>	<i>Posterior Analytics</i>
<i>Ath. Con.</i>	<i>Athenian Constitution</i>
<i>Cat.</i>	<i>Categories</i>
<i>DA</i>	<i>De Anima</i>
<i>De Part. An.</i>	<i>On the Parts of Animals</i>
<i>DM</i>	<i>De Memoria</i>
<i>DS</i>	<i>De Sensu</i>
<i>EE</i>	<i>Eudemian Ethics</i>
<i>EN</i>	<i>Nicomachean Ethics</i>
<i>Meta.</i>	<i>Metaphysics</i>
<i>Meteor.</i>	<i>Meteorology</i>
<i>Phys.</i>	<i>Physics</i>
<i>PN</i>	<i>Parva Naturalia</i>
<i>Pol.</i>	<i>Politics</i>
<i>Protrep.</i>	<i>Protrepticus</i>
<i>Top.</i>	<i>Topics</i>

Cicero

<i>Tusc. Disp.</i>	<i>Tusculan Disputations</i>
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Diogenes Laertius (DL)

<i>Lives</i>	<i>Lives of Philosophers</i>
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Diels and Kranz (DK)

Diels, H. and Kranz, W.	<i>Die Fragmente der Vorsokratiker.</i>
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Euripides*Bacch.* *Bacchae**Ion* *Ion***Herodotus***Hist.* *The Histories***Iamblichus***Vit. Pythag.* *Lives of Philosophers***Liddell and Scott**LSJ Liddell, H. G., and Scott, R., Eds. 1968. *A Greek-English Lexicon***Plato***Apol.* *Apology**Char.* *Charmides**Cleit.* *Cleitophon**Crito* *Crito**Ep.* *Epinomis**Hipp.* *Hipparchus**HM* *Hippias Minor**Ion* *Ion**Lach.* *Laches**Laws* *Laws**Lys.* *Lysis**Men.* *Meno**Phd.* *Phaedo**Phdr.* *Phaedrus**Prot.* *Protagoras**Rep.* *Republic**Soph.* *Sophist**Symp.* *Symposium**Theaet.* *Theaetetus**Tim.* *Timaeus*

List of Abbreviations

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SEG
Supplementum Epigraphicum Graecum. Leiden, 1923

Theognis
Eleg. *Elegies*

Thucydides
Hist. *History of the Peloponnesian War*

Xenophon
Cyr. *Cyropaedia*
Mem. *Memorabilia*