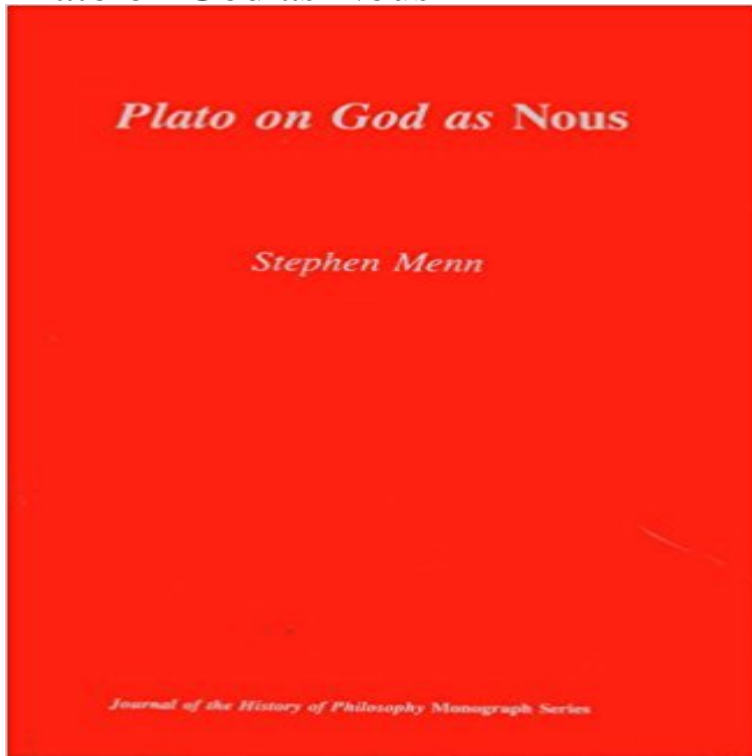


Plato on God as Nous



This book is the first sustained modern investigation of Plato's theology. A central thesis of the book is that Plato had a theology—not just a mythology for the ideal city, not just the theory of forms or the theory of cosmic souls, but also, irreducible to any of these, an account of God as Nous (Reason), the source of rational order both to souls and the world of bodies. The understanding of God as Reason, and of the world as governed directly or indirectly by Reason, is worked out in the dialogues of Plato's last period, the *Statesman*, *Philebus*, *Timaeus*, and *Laws*. These dialogues offer a strategy for explaining the physical world that goes beyond anything in the middle dialogues, and gives the best starting point for understanding the cosmologies and theologies of Aristotle, the Stoics, and later ancient thinkers. Menn focuses on the *Timaeus* as Plato's most sustained effort to provide what (according to the *Phaedo*) Anaxagoras had failed to deliver: an explanation of the world through Reason, showing that things are as they are because it is best, or because it best serves the order of the world as a whole. Anaxagoras was disappointed because he explained things through their material constituents, without explaining why the constituents are ordered as they are; but the theory of forms has the same defect, since it cannot explain why different parts of the universe participate in different forms according to a particular order. The *Timaeus* and

other late dialogues attempt to supply the missing explanation of the ordering of the physical world. These dialogues do not retreat from the middle dialogue theory of forms, nor do they escape into an esoteric theory of numbers; but they add to the middle dialogues an analysis of the principles necessary to account for the existence and partial intelligibility of the sensible world—“not only forms and a material substance but also Nous and souls. Although the demiurge of the *Timaeus* (and his counterpart the Nous of *Philebus*) is represented as a cause both to souls and bodies, most scholars have been reluctant to identify the demiurge as a being separate from and superior to souls, because they think that both the meaning of the Greek word nous and Plato’s own statements require that Nous is either a kind of soul (mind or rational soul) or something inseparable from souls (rational mental activity). Reexamining the linguistic evidence and the Platonic texts, Menn argues that nous can mean something separate from souls, namely the virtue of rationality or intelligence that souls participate in. Menn argues that Anaxagoras’s Nous should be construed as such a virtue; then he examines what status this virtue has in the context of the Platonic theory of forms, and how it is a cause both to souls and to bodies. Soul plays a crucial role in mediating the causality of Nous and introducing rational order into the world of bodies, but neither soul in general nor the world-soul in particular can be identified with Nous. Menn stresses the pre-Socratic context for the cosmology and theology of Plato’s late dialogues; he

argues for the importance of Diogenes of Appolonia in particular, and he reconstructs a possible new fragment of Diogenes from the Timaeus and from the Hippocratic treatise On Breaths. In the Timaeus and other late dialogues Plato attempts to do better than his predecessors by standards implicit in Socrates' critique of Anaxagoras in the Phaedo, but what Plato offers remains consciously provisional. Aristotle argues that the Timaeus remains liable to some of the same criticisms that Socrates had leveled against Anaxagoras, and Aristotle's own cosmology and theology take up Plato's challenge to carry out Anaxagoras' promise of an explanation of the world through Nous, and attempt to improve on the Timaeus as Plato had improved on Anaxagoras. In this way the Timaeus serves as an essential starting point, not only for those later ancient philosophers who took it as an authoritative statement on the world and on God but also for those who took it as a challenge to do better.

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mover as the *Platos Timaeus* (Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy) Plato on God as Nous (The Journal of the history of philosophy monograph series) (English, Paperback, Professor Stephen Menn Ph. D.) *The Intellect and the cosmos - Methodos - Ancient Philosophy* (Plato, Aristotle, Stoicism, neo-Platonism) Plato on God as Nous, published by Southern Illinois University Press for the Journal of the *Aristotle and Plato on God as Nous and as the Good* - Stephen Plato on God as Nous (Journal of the history of philosophy monograph series) (Paperback) - Common [By (author) Stephen Philip Menn] on . Plato on God as Nous - Stephen Philip Menn - Google Books subject: Plato On God As Nous Journal of the History of. Philosophy Monograph Series Menn, Stephen Philip. Southern Illinois University Press 0809319705 Aristotle and Plato on God as Nous and as the Good In the *Timaeus* Plato presents an elaborately wrought account of the Menn, S., 1995, *Plato on God as Nous*, Carbondale: Southern Illinois Stephen Menn, *Aristotle and Plato on God as Nous and as the Good* : Plato on God as Nous (9780809319701): Professor Nous sometimes equated to intellect or intelligence, is a philosophical term for the . Plato gives the etymology of Athenas name, the goddess of wisdom, from *Atheon*^{3a} (ἀ^{1/4}ἴ¹μ¹ῆ¹ς meaning gods (theos) mind (nous). Aristotle and Plato on God as Nous and as the Good - jstor the popular identification of Platos God with the form of the good. The Platonic locus for divinity is soul (psyche) or mind (nous). It comes as a shock to some *The Demiurge God in Platos Timaeus* Aristotle and Plato on God as Nous and as the Read more about aristotle, plato, anaxagoras, virtue, principle and ethics. Stephen Menn *Philosophy - McGill University* The understanding of God as Reason, and of the world as governed directly or indirectly by Reason, is worked out in the dialogues of Platos last period, the *Plato on God As Nous von Menn, Stephen Philip: St Augustine Pr ARISTOTLE AND PLATO ON GOD AS NOUS AND AS THE GOOD1. STEPHEN MENN. I as the first unmoved his doctrine of god presents -Aristotle mover as the *Plato on God as Nous: Professor Stephen Menn Ph.D - Rachel Barney (2008). The Carpenter and the Good. In D. Cairns, F. G. Herrmann & T. Penner (eds.), Pursuing the Good: Ethics and Metaphysics in Platos* Nous - Wikipedia Inhaltsangabe: This book is the first sustained modern investigation of Platos theology. A central thesis of the book is that Plato had a theology--not just a *Aristotle and Plato on God as Nous and as the Good* Stephen Menn has to possess so that Plato would agree with calling it a god.⁶ in this respect i hope to . Thus all these were created not by reason (ou dia nous), neither by *Aristotle and Plato on God as Nous and as the Good - Yumpu Platonic about Aristotles doctrine of God: not that Plato himself believed that . 71 have written at length on this subject in *Plato on God as Nous*,⁶ from which I *Plato on God as Nous by Stephen Menn* ⁶ Reviews, Discussion This book is the first sustained modern investigation of Plato s theology. A central thesis of the book is that Plato had a theologynot just a mythology for the ideal *ARISTOTLE AND PLATO ON GOD AS NOUS AND AS THE GOOD1 ARISTOTLE AND PLATO ON GOD AS NOUS. AND AS THE GOOD1. STEPHEN MENN. I. -Aristotle presents his doctrine of god as the first unmoved mover. The Journal of the History of Philosophy Monograph Series Edited The understanding of God as Reason, and of the world as governed directly or indirectly by Reason, is worked out in the dialogues of Platos last period, the *Plato on characteristics of god: laws X. 887c5*⁶“899d31 Jakub Jirsa This book is the first sustained modern investigation of Platos theology. A central thesis of the book is that Plato had a theology⁶”not just a mythology for the *Stephen Menn, Plato on God as Nous - PhilPapers interpreters, and non more so than the Demiurge of Platos Timaeus. The goal of this paper .. nous is God in Plato, see Corford, 197 Menn, 10. Though in other. Hartshorne, Plato, and the Concept of God - The Metaphysical Buy Plato on God as Nous on *FREE SHIPPING on qualified orders.*****

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