



Plato and the Hero: Courage, Manliness and the Impersonal Good

By Angela Hobbs

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Angela Hobbs

Plato's thinking on courage, manliness and heroism is both profound and central to his work, but these areas of his thought remain underexplored. This book examines his developing critique of the notions and embodiments of manliness prevalent in his culture (particularly those in Homer), and his attempt to redefine such notions in accordance with his ethical, psychological and metaphysical principles. It further seeks to locate the discussion within the framework of Plato's general approach to ethics.

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Review

"This remarkable study on courage breaks new ground in Platonic scholarship, looking to Plato, not the poets, for an inquiry into what counts as true heroism." Review of *Metaphysics*

"Plato and the Hero promises to be of considerable interest to students of ethics.... Hobbs is unquestionably correct to stress the importance that Plato himself gives to the proper education of the thumos in the development of human beings fit to rule [the ideal society]; so we need to know what exactly the thumos is, and its place in Plato's larger ethical framework. Hobbs's attempt to treat these issues systematically is welcome and overdue.... it sets out the territory in an engaging and well-organized manner, and will provide a good springboard for anyone wishing to explore the murky terrain of the thumos." *The Philosophical Review*

"This is a substantial contribution to our understanding not only of Platonic psychology but of psychology simply." *Ethics*

"A fascinating assessment of the development of Plato's moral psychology as found in the dialogues *Laches*, *Protagoras*, *Gorgias*, *Republic*, *Hippias Major and Minor*, and *Symposium*. Scott Carson, *Religious Studies Review*

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