Lifelong Studies in Love
With Plato

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Lecturae Platonis

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ACADEMIA
Contents

Preface 7

How Plato writes 9

The Platonic Philosophy as Dialectic 21

Plato: The knowledge of the unstable reality 33

Are there any “youthful” and/or socratic dialogues? Some reflections on the Apology of Socrates 51

The Phaedrus Polyphonic Structure 71

The Statesman explains adequately the role of laws in Plato 99

A Hermeneutic Paradigm for the History of Ancient Philosophy: the Multifocal Approach 113

Historiographical Reading and Theoretical Reworking. An Underestimated Distinction 135

Bibliography 167

Index of ancient names 173

Index of modern authors 175

Index of the passages cited in extended form 177
Preface

I wanted to emphasize here some important things for me, like the sense of limit, the importance of perseverance, the need for a passion. Then, aware of my limitations and my 77 years, I decided to join Hokusai’s ironic hope. The reader will do the rest. This way, somehow, I also respect Plato’s teaching: you, the readers, are the ones who have to discover the meaning of these proposals. In this text I talk too much.¹

«From the age of 6 I had a mania for drawing shapes of things. When I was 50, I had published an infinity of designs, but all I have produced before the age of 70 is no worth taking into account. At the age of 75 I finally apprehended something of the true quality of birds, animals, insects, fishes, and of the vital nature of grasses and trees. When I am 80 you will see real progress. At 90 I shall have penetrated even further the deeper meaning of things, at 100 I shall have become truly marvellous, and at 110 everything I create; a dot, a line, will jump to life as never before. I only beg that gentlemen of sufficiently long life take care to note the truth of my words I am writing this in my old age. I used to call myself Hokusai, but today I sign myself “The Old Man Mad About Drawing”». ¹

¹ Unfortunately it is not enough. Since many elements of my interpretation of Plato are different from the statements of traditional manuals, I have to refer, for the textual demonstration, to the two big books Migliori 2013. There is then a shorter text and exposition Migliori 2017. Furthermore I will be quoting Plato extensively, as I am mistrustful of all too clever and original interpretations that do not keep to the text. Unfortunately, Plato has written by creating a new technique, which he describes as a “game” in the Phaedrus. Therefore it is always necessary to know the first essay, pp. 8-19.