

Plotinus on Eternity and Time (Ennead III.7)

Studies in Platonism, Neoplatonism, and the Platonic Tradition

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Plotinus on Eternity and Time (Ennead III.7)

Text, Translation, and Commentary

By

Kit Tempest-Walters



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Foreword

This is a work greatly to be welcomed. Having had the pleasure of being an external examiner for the doctoral thesis from which this work arises, I had already the strong conviction that it had much of importance to say about Plotinus' views on eternity and time, and this view is greatly reinforced by an inspection of the work in its present form. I had indeed hoped that we could have included Dr. Tempest-Walters' edition in the Plotinus series that I am editing, with Professor Andrew Smith, for the Parmenides Press, but, alas, it had already been assigned, so I am very glad to see the work appearing in this Brill series.

One of the most important features of this edition, in my view, is that it propounds the argument that, in the author's words, "the One does not only emanate its exoteric nature to Intellect and Soul to form the three hypostases, but that it also emanates its esoteric nature to eternity and time which can be understood only in relation to the human soul and its path of liberation rather than as objects within the hypostases." Indeed, the presentation of Eternity and Time as *esoteric* phenomena, corresponding to Intellect and Soul as their exoteric counterparts, is a major insight of the author which I find most valuable.

It is important, I think, when addressing the philosophy of Plotinus, to recognize that it must be approached as *lived experience* as well as an objective body of doctrine, and in this connection, Tempest-Walters' edition seems to me to make a significant contribution. His excellent commentary carries on in detail the exposition of the position that he has set out in the introduction, and makes this a most valuable addition to Plotinian scholarship.

Professor John Dillon

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Abbreviations

Ancient Authors

Albinus		
	<i>Is.</i>	<i>Isagoge</i>
“Alcinous”		
	<i>Didasc.</i>	<i>Didascalicus</i>
Alex. Aphrod.	Alexander of Aphrodisias	
	<i>De temp.</i>	<i>De tempore</i>
	<i>In Metaph.</i>	<i>In Aristotelis metaphysica commentaria</i>
	<i>Mund.</i>	<i>De mundo</i>
Anon.	Anonymous Authors	
	<i>In Thet.</i>	<i>Commentarium in Platonis Theaetetum</i>
Apul.	Apuleius	
	<i>De Plat.</i>	<i>De Platone et eius dogmate</i>
	<i>Met.</i>	<i>Metamorphoses</i>
[Archyt.]	Pseudo-Archytas	
	<i>Cat.</i>	<i>Categoriae</i>
Arist.	Aristotle	
	<i>Cael.</i>	<i>De caelo</i>
	<i>De an.</i>	<i>De anima</i>
	<i>De Pyth.</i>	<i>De Pythagoriis, fragmenta</i>
	<i>Eth. Nic.</i>	<i>Ethica Nicomachea</i>
	<i>Metaph.</i>	<i>Metaphysica</i>
	<i>Ph.</i>	<i>Physica</i>
Aug.	Augustine	
	<i>Conf.</i>	<i>Confessiones</i>
Boeth.	Boethius	
	<i>De consol. philos.</i>	<i>De consolatione philosophiae</i>
	<i>De trin.</i>	<i>De trinitate</i>
Boethus of Sidon		
	<i>Schol. in Arist. Organon</i>	<i>In Categoriae apud T. Waitz, Scholia in Aristotelis Organon</i>
Cic.	Cicero	
	<i>Tusc.</i>	<i>Tusculanae disputationes</i>
Diog. Laert.	Diogenes Laertius	
	<i>Vitae</i>	<i>The Lives of Eminent Philosophers</i>
Epicurus	<i>Ep. Her.</i>	<i>Epistula ad Herodotum</i>

Heraclit.	Heraclitus of Ephesus
Homer	<i>Il.</i> <i>Iliad</i>
Iambl.	Iamblichus <i>In Nicom Ar.</i> <i>In Nicomachi arithmetica introductionem</i>
Lucr.	Lucretius <i>De rerum natura</i>
Max. Tyr.	Maximus Tyrius <i>Or.</i> <i>Orationes</i>
Nicom.	Nicomachus of Gerasa apud Phot. Bibl cod. <i>Ar.</i> <i>Introductio arithmetica</i>
Num.	Numenius
Parm.	Parmenides
Philo	Philo Judaeus <i>Deus</i> <i>Quod Deus sit immutabilis</i> <i>Mut.</i> <i>De mutatione nominum</i> <i>Opif.</i> <i>De opificio mundi</i>
Philop.	Johannes Philoponus <i>In De an.</i> <i>In Aristotelis de anima libros commentaria</i> <i>In Ph.</i> <i>In Physica</i>
Pl.	Plato <i>Cra.</i> <i>Cratylus</i> <i>Leg.</i> <i>Leges = Laws</i> <i>Phd</i> <i>Phaedo</i> <i>Phlb.</i> <i>Philebus</i> <i>Resp.</i> <i>Respublica = Republic</i> <i>Soph.</i> <i>Sophista = Sophist</i> <i>Tht.</i> <i>Theaetetus</i> <i>Ti.</i> <i>Timaeus</i>
[Pl.]	pseudo-Plato <i>Epin.</i> <i>Epinomis</i> Plut. Plutarch <i>De E ap. Delph.</i> <i>De E apud Delphos</i> <i>De Is. et Os.</i> <i>De Iside et Osiride</i> <i>Quaest. conu.</i> <i>Quaestionum convivialium libri</i> <i>Quaest. Plat.</i> <i>Quaestiones Platonicae</i>
Porph.	Porphyry <i>Sent.</i> <i>Sententiae ad intelligibilia ducentes</i> <i>VP</i> <i>Vita Plotini</i>
Procl.	Proclus <i>In Eucl.</i> <i>In primum Euclidis Elementorum librum commentarii</i>

Sen.	Seneca (the Younger)
	<i>Ep.</i> <i>Ad Lucilium epistulae morales</i>
Sext. Emp.	Sextus Empiricus
	<i>Math.</i> <i>Adversus Mathematicos</i>
Simpl.	Simplicius
	<i>In Ph.</i> <i>In Aristotelis physicorum libros commentaria</i>
	<i>In Ti.</i> <i>In Platonis Timaeum commentarii</i>
Themist.	Themistius
	<i>In Ph.</i> <i>In Aristotelis physica paraphrasis</i>

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Doxographi Graeci. 4th ed. Berolini: apud Walter de Gruyter et socios. Orig. publ. 1879, Berolini: apud G. Reimerum.
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Die Fragmente der Vorsokratiker. 6th ed. Berlin: Weidmann.
- LSJ* Liddell, Henry George, Robert Scott, and Henry Stuart Jones. 1940.
A Greek-English Lexicon. 9th ed. Oxford: Clarendon Press.
- SVF* von Arnim, Hans Friedrich August. ed. 1903–1924.
Stoicorum veterum fragmenta. 4 vols. Lipsiae et Stutgardiae: in aedibus B.G. Teubneri. Repr. 1964, Stuttgart: B.G. Teubner.

Editions

This book follows the text of Henry, P. and H.-R. Schwyzer 1964–1982. *Plotini opera*. (Editio minor.) Oxford, Oxford University Press.

Principal Translations

In this book, all translations of *Ennead* 111.7 are my own. Translations of passages from the other treatises in the *Enneads* are those of Armstrong 1966–1988.