

SEVERAL QUOTES on PLATONIC THEOSOPHY

[H.P. Blavatsky, *ISIS Unveiled*, Vol. I, orig. 1877 ed., p. xi]

It is the Platonic philosophy, the most elaborate compend of the abstruse systems of old India, that can alone afford us this middle ground.

[A. Wilder. *New Platonism and Alchemy*, Secret Doctrine Reference Series, Wizards Bookshelf, Minneapolis, 1975, reset verbatim with the original text of 1869, p. 4.]

The first proposition set forth by Ammonius was that of a primeval *system of theosophy*, a system which was essentially alike, at first, in all countries.

[p. 5]

It was his aim and purpose to reconcile all sects and peoples, under his common faith, to induce them to lay aside their contentions and quarrels, and unite together as one family, the children of a common mother.

[H.P. Blavatsky, *ISIS Unveiled*, Vol. I, orig. 1877 ed., p. 444]

It was Ammonius who first taught that every religion was based on one and the same truth; which is the wisdom found in the Books of Thoth (Hermes Trismegistus), from which books Pythagoras and Plato had learned all their philosophy. And the doctrines of the former he affirmed to have been identical with the earliest teachings of the Brahmans — now embodied in the oldest Vedas.

[A. Wilder. *New Platonism and Alchemy*, Secret Doctrine Reference Series, Wizards Bookshelf, Minneapolis, 1975, reset verbatim with the original text of 1869, p. 4.]

Buddhistic, Vedantic and Magian systems were expounded along with the philosophies of Greece.

The Platonists seem to have been most numerous and to have held their ground the longest.

[H.P. Blavatsky, *Collected Writings*, Vol. XIV, Wheaton, IL: Theosophical Publishing House, 1995, p. 308]

The Neo-Platonic School of Alexandria founded by Ammonius — the prototype proposed for the Theosophical Society — taught Theurgy and Magic, as much as they were taught in the days of Pythagoras, and by others far earlier than his period. For Proclus says that the doctrines

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of Orpheus, who was an Indian and came from India, were the origin of the systems afterwards promulgated.

What Orpheus delivered in hidden allegories, Pythagoras learned when he was initiated into the Orphic mysteries; and Plato next received a perfect knowledge of them from Orphic and Pythagorean writings.

[H.P. Blavatsky, *Collected Writings*, Vol. XIV Wheaton, IL: Theosophical Publishing House, 1995, p. 305]

All that is grand and noble in Christian theology comes from Neo-Platonism. It is too well-known now to need much repetition that Ammonius Saccas, the God-taught (theodidaktos) and the lover of the truth (philelethes), in establishing his school, made a direct attempt **to benefit the world by teaching those portions of the Secret Science that were permitted by its direct guardians to be revealed in those days.** [emphasis by E.B.] ‡

‡ No orthodox Christian has ever equalled, far less surpassed, in the practice of true Christ-like virtues and ethics, or in the beauty of his moral nature, Ammonius, the Alexandrian pervert from Christianity (he was born from Christian parents).

[Plato, *Parmenides* 137c – 142]

If the One is, it is:

- ‘not the many’ (...) ‘infinite’ (...) ‘without form or shape’ (...) (*i.e. boundless*)
- ‘nowhere’ (...) ‘cannot be anywhere in anything’ (...) (*i.e. omnipresent*) [SEP]
- ‘immovable’ (...) ‘neither at rest nor in motion’ (...) ‘nor different from itself or another thing’ (...) ‘nor the same as itself or another’ (...) ‘neither like nor unlike anything’ (...) (*i.e. immutable*)
- ‘has no share of time, nor is *in* any time’ (...) (*i.e. eternal*)
- ‘no name belongs to it, nor is there an account or any knowledge or perception or opinion of it.’ (*i.e. unthinkable and unspeakable*)

[Text between brackets are adjectives from the first fundamental proposition from *The Secret Doctrine* and added by E.B.]

[Plato, *Epistles*, II, 312de, as depicted from H.P. Blavatsky, *ISIS Unveiled* [Vol. I, orig. 1877 ed., p. 288 fn (*italics* by H.P. Blavatsky)]]

† This assertion is clearly corroborated by Plato himself, who says: "You say that, in my former discourse, I have not sufficiently explained to you the nature of the *First*. I purposely spoke

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enigmatically, that in case the tablet should have happened with any accident, either by land or sea, a person, without some previous knowledge of the subject, might not be able to understand its contents" ("Plato," Ep. ii., p. 312; Cory: "Ancient Fragments").

[Plato, *Phaedo* 72ab]

Everything alive revolves in circles.

[Plato, *Phaedo* 75e, *Menon* 81d]

All learning equals recollection.

[Plato, *Theaetetus*, 176ab]

Homoioosis Theoi (ὁμοίωσις θεῶ), referring to the pursuit to unify ourselves with the divine which we are in essence.

[Plato, *Phaedrus*, 279bc, the invocation from Socrates, paraphrased by Gottfried de Purucker in 'Three things to remember', *Theosophical Forum* Vol. XVII, No. 5 November 1940]

Lead me to such a life that the outer man on earth and the inner divine man are one!

[H.P. Blavatsky, *Theosophical Glossary*, 'Pythagoras']

Blavatsky about Eastern secrets divulged to Pythagoras and his followers: 'many foreigners were subsequently admitted to share the knowledge of the wise men of the East, who, as a consequence, had many of their secrets divulged. Later still, unable to preserve them in their purity, these mysteries were so mixed up with fictions and fables of the Grecian mythology that truth was wholly distorted.'

**[Plotinus, *Enneads*, VI, 9, 7 translation from
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Henosis#cite_note-6]**

Our thought cannot grasp the One as long as any other image remains active in the soul. To this end, you must set free your soul from all outward things and turn wholly within yourself, with

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no more leaning to what lies outside, and lay your mind bare of ideal forms, as before of the objects of sense, and forget even yourself, and so come within sight of that One.

[Plotinus, *Ennead*, I, 6, 9 translated by Stephen MacKenna, Penguin, 1991, p. 54]

Withdraw into yourself and look. And if you do not find yourself beautiful yet, act as does the creator of a statue that is to be made beautiful: he cuts away here, he smooths there, he makes this line lighter, this other purer, until a lovely face has grown upon his work. So do you also: cut away all that is excessive, straighten all that is crooked, bring light to all that is overcast, labour to make all one glow of beauty and never cease chiselling your statue, until there shall shine out on you from it the godlike splendour of virtue, until you shall see the perfect goodness surely established in the stainless shrine.

[Mansour Al-Hallaj <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Al-Hallaj>]

I am the Truth

[Jalāl al-Dīn Muḥammad Rūmī in Coleman Barks. *The Essential Rumi*. Translations by, p. xx. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rumi#cite_note-60]

I am the same as He

[Koran, 2:256]

There is no compulsion in religion.

[G. Pico della Mirandola, *Oration on the Dignity of Man*]

You, O Adam [i.e. the archetypal man - E.B.], (...) may, by your own free will, (...), trace for yourself the lineaments of your own nature (...) you may, as the free and proud shaper of your own being, fashion yourself in the form you may prefer. [A reference to Plotinus' advice above to work on yourself like a sculptor does – E.B.]

It will be in your power to descend to the lower, brutish forms of life; you will be able, through your own decision, to rise again to the superior orders whose life is divine.

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[R.W. Emerson, *The Over-Soul*]

Within man is the soul of the whole; the wise silence; the universal beauty, to which every part and particle is equally related; the eternal ONE.

[H.P. Blavatsky, *ISIS Unveiled*, Vol. II, orig. 1877 ed., p. 156]

Had not the Christians burdened themselves with the *Revelations* of a little nation, and accepted the Jehovah of Moses, the Gnostic ideas would never have been termed *heresies*; once relieved of their dogmatic exaggerations the world would have had a religious system based on pure Platonic philosophy, and surely something would then have been gained.