

4 Texts On Socrates

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this unique and expertly annotated collection of the classic accounts of socrates left by plato aristophanes and xenophon features new translations of euthyphro apology crito and the death scene from phaedo by c d c reeve peter meineck s translation of clouds and james doyle s translation of apology of socrates

an exciting series that provides students with direct access to the ancient world by offering new translations of extracts from its key texts socrates is one of the ancient greeks that everyone has heard of he is responsible more than any other individual for adding a new urgency and vigour to the fundamental questions we ask about our own lives socrates it turns out was always rather mysterious and intentionally so he was more interested in making people think than in telling them what to think part of the greece and rome texts and contexts series this book helps readers to discover the original socrates

socrates 469 399 bc is one of history s most enigmatic figures our knowledge of him comes to us second hand primarily from the philosopher plato who was socrates most gifted student and from the historian and sometime philosopher xenophon who counted himself as a member of socrates inner circle of friends we also hear of socrates in one comic play produced during his lifetime aristophanes clouds and in passing from the philosopher aristotle a student of plato socrates is a figure of enduring interest he is often considered the father of western philosophy yet the four most famous accounts we have of him present a contradictory confusing picture just who was socrates a brilliant philosopher at times confounding and infuriating morally serious and yet ironic the ever worldly man sometime mystic and uncommon martyr depicted by plato or did

plato conflate socrates views with his own startling genius as aristotle suggests was so rates instead the less impressive more mundane man whose commonsense impressed the laconic xenophon or was socrates the charlatan the long winded phony of aristophanes play the socratic works of diogenes laertius 3rd century ad libanius ad 314 c 393 maximus of tyre 2nd century ad and apuleius born c ad 125 add important dimensions to the portrait of socrates diogenes laertius life of socrates emphasizes socrates deep ethical nature and his extraordinary personality libanius apology of socrates is based on sources now lost to us maximus of tyre s whether socrates did the right thing when he did not defend himself makes the star ling claim against testimony of plato and xenophon that socrates never spoke at his own trial from apuleius on the god of socrates we hear at length of socrates infamous daimonion the divine sign only mentioned elsewhere the sign that warned socrates against certain courses of action in short from these four texts we are reintroduced to socrates and new wrinkles are added to an already intriguing historical figure

socrates born in athens in 469bce spent much of his life pointing out the absurdities of current beliefs socrates left no writings of his own yet his contribution to philosophy is immeasurable his central argument that goodness and truth are inseparable is set out in these selections from his pupils plato and xenophon and subjected to witty satire by the playwright aristophanes page 4 of dust cover

the trial and death of socrates 469 399 bce have almost as central a place in western consciousness as the trial and death of jesus in four superb dialogues plato provides the classic account euthyphro finds socrates outside the court house debating the nature of piety while the apology is his robust rebuttal of the charges of impiety and a defence of the philosopher s life in the crito while awaiting execution in prison socrates counters the arguments of friends urging him to escape finally in the phaedo he is shown calmly confident in the face of death skilfully arguing the case for the immortality of the soul for more than seventy years penguin has been the leading publisher of classic literature in the english speaking world with more than 1 700 titles penguin classics represents a global bookshelf of the best works throughout history and across genres and disciplines readers trust the series to provide authoritative texts enhanced by introductions and notes by distinguished scholars and contemporary authors as well as up to date translations by award winning translators

reeve s book is an excellent companion to plato s apology and a valuable discussion of many of the main issues that arise in the early dialogues reeve is an extremely careful reader of texts and his familiarity with the

legal and cultural background of socrates trial allows him to correct many common misunderstandings of that event in addition he integrates his reading of the apology with a sophisticated discussion of socrates philosophy the writing is clear and succinct and the research is informed by a thorough acquaintance with the secondary literature reeve's book will be accessible to any serious undergraduate but it is also a work that will have to be taken into account by every scholar doing advanced research on socrates richard kraut northwestern university

consider just this and give your minds to this alone whether or not what i say is just plato's account of socrates trial and death 399 bc is a significant moment in classical literature and the life of classical athens in these four dialogues plato develops the socratic belief in responsibility for one's self and shows socrates living and dying under his philosophy in euthyphro socrates debates goodness outside the courthouse apology sees him in court rebutting all charges of impiety in crito he refuses an entreaty to escape from prison and in phaedo socrates faces his impending death with calmness and skilful discussion of immortality christopher rowe's introduction to his powerful new translation examines the book's themes of identity and confrontation and explores how its content is less historical fact than a promotion of plato's socratic philosophy for more than seventy years penguin has been the leading publisher of classic literature in the english speaking world with more than 1 700 titles penguin classics represents a global bookshelf of the best works throughout history and across genres and disciplines readers trust the series to provide authoritative texts enhanced by introductions and notes by distinguished scholars and contemporary authors as well as up to date translations by award winning translators

considered one of the most influential writings in western philosophy the account of the trial and death of socrates is a compilation of four dialogues by plato euthyphro apology crito and phaedo these world famous dialogues rank with the writings of aristotle as the most important and influential philosophical works in western thought they chronicle the final days of the philosopher socrates these texts provide insight into his trial defense and execution euthyphro set outside the athenian courts this dialogue features socrates encounter with euthyphro who is prosecuting his own father for murder they discuss the nature of piety setting the stage for socrates upcoming trial apology socrates presents his defense against accusations of corrupting the youth and impiety he argues that questioning and challenging societal norms is essential for finding truth

and wisdom crito while imprisoned socrates is visited by his friend crito who urges him to escape socrates discusses justice the social contract and his commitment to athenian laws ultimately choosing to accept his death sentence phaedo this dialogue depicts socrates final moments engaging in philosophical discussions about the immortality of the soul before drinking the hemlock that will end his life together these dialogues explore themes of ethics justice and the philosopher s role in society offering a profound reflection on socrates unwavering commitment to his principles even in the face of death scholars have selected this work as being culturally important and a large part of the knowledge base of civilization as we know it plato is among the most influential philosophers of all time along with his teacher socrates and his pupil aristotle he can be said to have laid the foundations for western philosophy science and ethics as well as establishing the first academy for higher learning in the western world

the supplement edition apology of socrates the crito is designed to aid teachers with a wealth of background information and opinions the supplement includes the text of the class book apology of socrates the crito with the same page numbering plus the supplement material with bibliography glossary and the text of xenophon s apology of socrates about the same trial from a different point of view benjamin jowett s early translation of plato s apology is remarkably free of victorianisms and brings to life the figure of socrates with an easy colloquialism almost the entire dialogue is actually a monologue battling the demons real or imaginary that had haunted him for decades the record we have is plato s rendition of socrates words and the court proceedings our best assumption is that plato himself was there he places himself as a mute audience member in the dialogue are plato s words direct from socrates mouth common greek practice by herodotus thucydides and others was to recreate scenes or even entire speeches from the past as they might have happened today we would describe taking those liberties with history as docudrama the later dialogues that plato wrote featuring socrates have led critics to wonder how much in these texts represent plato a systematic philosophizer and how much could be attributed to actual statements made by socrates the perennial seeker xenophon also wrote a work about the same trial he was not present the text of his account with his interpretation of events follows the supplement section however the supplement material in this volume does not deal directly with the xenophon text here are the contents of the supplementary material this supplement is organized around a series of typical student questions the answers are short paragraphs gleaned from many critical sources often contradicting each other socrates has had perhaps as many critical detractors as

proponents down through history plus a glossary for greek names of people gods and events a bibliography and the text of xenophon s apology of socrates plato supplement edition the apology of socrates the crito table of contents preface for teachers what is important about the apology what is an apology who was socrates who was plato why did plato write the apology who else wrote firsthand about socrates is plato s text accurate what did socrates contemporaries say why is this trial taking place now what was the larger political picture what were the charges against socrates how did socrates defend himself what is the socratic problem why did socrates attack the early accusers first did the athenians sentence socrates unjustly what was the public reaction after the trial was socrates singled out what do moderns say about socrates did socrates have a gospel or teaching was socrates anti democratic what is the publishing history of the apology what is important about the crito bibliography the text of xenophon s apology of socrates glossary

excerpt from plato s apology of socrates and crito with notes critical and exegetical introductory notices and a logical analysis of the apology the text of the present edition of the apology and crito is almost throughout in strict conformity with the bodleian ms deviations from which are admitted only in those places where other reasons seemed to render them absolutely necessary the critical notes contain a complete account of all passages in which the text of this edition differs from that of bekker in the second edition the text has been rectified and amended on the basis of a collation of the bodleian ms which i made in the spring of 1870 and in the crito i have employed the valuable tbingen ms which i collated in july 1870 without boasting i may now say that my edition of the apology and crito offers the most correct text extant about the publisher forgotten books publishes hundreds of thousands of rare and classic books find more at forgottenbooks.com this book is a reproduction of an important historical work forgotten books uses state of the art technology to digitally reconstruct the work preserving the original format whilst repairing imperfections present in the aged copy in rare cases an imperfection in the original such as a blemish or missing page may be replicated in our edition we do however repair the vast majority of imperfections successfully any imperfections that remain are intentionally left to preserve the state of such historical works

for anyone interested in learning more about the mysterious and imposing figure of socrates the philosopher who has most significantly influenced the western world should read the trial and death of socrates euthyphro the apology of socrates crito and phaedo are all included in this volume they follow socrates s teachings life

and demise the timeless classics become current thanks to these precise english translations

presents a critical study of the life and views of ancient greek philosopher socrates that references the writings of aristophanes xenophon plato and aristotle

socrates has a unique position in the history of philosophy it is no exaggeration to say that had it not been for his influence on plato the whole development of western philosophy might have been unimaginably different yet socrates wrote nothing himself and our knowledge of him is derived primarily from the engaging and infuriating figure who appears in plato s dialogues in this very short introduction christopher taylor explores the life of socrates and his philosophical activity before looking to the responses his philosophical doctrines have evoked in the centuries since his betrayal and execution at fellow athenian hands examining the relationship between the historical socrates and the platonic character taylor considers the complex question of how far it is possible to distinguish the philosopher s own thought from that of those others who wrote about him and explores the enduring image of socrates as the ideal exemplar of the philosophic life a thinker whose moral and intellectual integrity permeated every detail of his life this new edition also includes a new chapter analysing the reception and influence of socrates in 19th and 20th century philosophical thought about the series the very short introductions series from oxford university press contains hundreds of titles in almost every subject area these pocket sized books are the perfect way to get ahead in a new subject quickly our expert authors combine facts analysis perspective new ideas and enthusiasm to make interesting and challenging topics highly readable

this interpretation of plato s apology of socrates argues that plato s socrates offers a sincere defence against the charges he faces in doing so the book offers an exhaustive historical and philosophical interpretation of and commentary on the text

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