



The Platonic Myths (Paperback)

By Josef Pieper

St. Augustine's Press, 2011. Paperback. Condition: New. (First) ed.. Language: English . Brand New Book. Pieper distinguishes between Platonic stories in which Plato crystallizes mythical fragments from the mere stories which contain them, and Platonic myths, in which he purifies the proper mythical elements, freeing them of the non-mythical elements which tend to obscure them. Pieper succeeds in establishing the case for a truth, found particularly in the eschatological myths, that is not reducible to the rational truth normally sought by philosophers. While it is not purely rational truth, it is not inferior. It is different. It stems from tradition, which reaches back to the ultimate beginnings of man's existence -- back into our pre-history and to events of which, naturally, we have no experience. The only access we have to this truth is through "hearing" (ex aequo), which is not dependent on mere "hearsay", but which, in Pieper's interpretation, reflects the handing on, in stories, of what the gods first communicated to man about the creation of the world and about the afterlife. These truths are to be found -- long before the New Testament (or even the Old Testament) -- in the myths of a variety...



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