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Plotinus on the Appearance of Time and the World of Sense

A Pantomime

Deepa Majumdar, Purdue University North Central

"Dr. Majumdar's knowledge and command of the sources, both primary and secondary, is particularly impressive. Her argument throughout the book is presented with a remarkable vigor and intensity and yet in a very clear way, which also makes the book accessible to non-specialists. Overall, this book can be not only a nice introduction to Plotinus but also of much help to anyone interested in the problem of time and temporality as related to the structure of the self."

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"This book will add to our knowledge of the one of the most important Neoplatonic thinkers. Future scholars will refer to and build on what Majumdar has written."

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Plotinus (c. 205–70) was a Neoplatonist philosopher, his work posthumously published by Porphyry and divided into six books, nine tractates each, called the Enneads. In this book, Majumdar makes a valuable addition to the literature on his work, especially Ennead III.7(45)11–13—in particular explaining Plotinus' cosmology using the genus-species model of soul, coordinating the literature on the appearance of time and the cosmos with that on the larger issue of Plotinian "emanation" and examining the role of *tolma* and the restless nature of soul in this conjoint appearance.

This book investigates Plotinian "emanation," its laws of *poiesis* (contemplative making) and the roles of nature, matter, *logos*, (rational formative principle) and contemplation and highlights the subtler details of Plotinus' cosmology by disentangling conceptual issues about the nature of soul and self ("we") and their impact on the process of generation of time and the cosmos.

Contents: Preface; Introduction. PART I: THE HERMENEUTIC SCENE: Truth, method and originality; Heritage and legacy. PART II: THE ARCHITECTONIC SCENE: Edifice of soul; Levels of self; The logic of *Poiesis*; Demiurge, nature, and matter. PART III: THE COSMOLOGICAL SCENE: The making of the world of sense in the *Enneads*; Conjoint appearance of time and the world of sense (III.7(45).11); The nature and role of the self (We) in III.7(45).11; *Tolma*, *Polupragmatic* nature—historical roots and the noetic level; *Tolma*, *Polupragmatic* nature, unquiet power and the descent of soul in III.7(45).11; Pantomime. Select bibliography; Index.

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