

Elisabetta Cattanei, Adriana Fermani and Maurizio Migliori (eds.)

By the sophists to Aristotle through Plato.

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(*Lecturae Platonis Vol. 10*)

There is a substantial difference between our way of “philosophizing”, based on alternative models (aut-aut), and the classical (especially Platonic-Aristotelian) way that constantly uses a plurality of methods and techniques (et-et), that are needed to adequately understand an intrinsically multiform reality. You can then find in the texts of these philosophers some statements that contradict each other, without this leading to contradictions or forms of relativism. Quite the contrary, an approach of this kind focuses on a fuller knowledge of a reality which must be understood in its different aspects.

By assuming this interpretative paradigm and by applying it to some important reflections of the Sophists, Plato and Aristotle, the Authors provide a number of particularly eloquent examples of this typically “Greek” proceeding, that rejects the unilateral positions and multiplies the attempts to grasp the whole reality.

The Authors believe that many of the puzzles of Ancient philosophy that have involved and divided the scholars can acquire a new and convincing explanation with the help of this new paradigm.

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