



Greek Philosophy, Thales to Plato (Classic Reprint)

John Burnet

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Lexicon Platonicum, which has proved a more formidable task than was at first anticipated. I have to thank the editor of this series and the publishers for their generous indulgence in the circumstances. It is unfortunate in some respects that I have been obliged to deal with certain parts of the subject in a form which does not admit of detailed argument and still less of controversy. The second edition of my *Early Greek Philosophy* (referred to as *E. Gr. Ph.z*) makes this in large measure unnecessary in Book I., but there are certain parts of Book III. where I have had to state my conclusions baldly in the hope that I may have a later opportunity of discussing their grounds. My chief aim for the present has been to assist students who wish to acquire a firsthand knowledge of what Plato actually says in the dialogues of his maturity. So long as they are content to know something of the *Republic* and the earlier dialogues, *Platonism* must be a sealed book to them. I have not thought it well to present Greek names in a Latin dress. I see no advantage, and many disadvantages, in writing *Herakleitos* as *Heraclitus*. It often leads to his being called out of his name, as the Emperor *Herakleios* usually is when disguised as *Heraclius*. On the other hand, the Latin titles of Plato's dialogues are English words. *Theaitetos* of *Athens* is best left with the beautiful name chosen for him by his father *Euphronios*, but the *Theaetetus* is as much English as *Thessalonians*. We shall never, it seems, reach agreement on this matter; I only wish to explain my own practice. I have to thank my friend and former colleague, *Sir Henry Jones*, for many valuable suggestions and, above all, for his constant encouragement. *Mr. Hetherington* of *Glasgow University* was good enough to verify most of my references, and the proofs have been carefully read by *Mr. W. L. Lorimer*, Lecturer in Greek at the

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