

## A Re-reading of Plato's *Symposium*; With an Emphasis on the Role and Status of the "Other" in Aristophanes' Narrative

Mohammad Kheiri\*  
Majid Haddadi\*\*

DOI: 10.22096/ek.2025.2057891.1591

Received Date: 14/04/2025 - Accepted Date: 07/10/2025

### Abstract

Plato's ideas are the origin of many issues that are repeatedly discussed in various forms in the contemporary world. Among these, Plato's views on love, are a subject that has been evaluated from different perspectives. Plato's engagement with the analysis of the non-rational constituents of human life, which were also of paramount interest in his period, and his striving to subsume them under the rational order he aimed to construct, culminated in the presentation of a differentiated exegesis of love. In the Platonic framework, love is introduced as a fundamental element and initiating principle for the progression towards the apprehension of the true Good and the realm of Ideas. The telos of this progression is the acquisition of true beauty, and in its pursuit, love and philosophy are inextricably linked, such that the philosopher and the lover become unified. In addition to analyzing the *Symposium*, this article proceeds by detailing the role and influence of Plato's ideas on the development of Christian teachings on love, and concludes with a presentation of various commentators' interpretations and evaluations of the dialogue. Subsequently, the study delves into Aristophanes' narrative of human creation, exploring the diverse dimensions and facets of this account, especially concerning the potential for establishing shared values across different cultures through mythology, and achieving a distinct perspective on "the other."

**Keywords:** Plato; Aristophanes; Other; Symposium.

---

\* Assistant Professor, Department of Philosophy, Mofid University, Qom, Iran. (Corresponding author)  
Email: m.khairi@yahoo.com

\*\* PhD student, Faculty of Persian Literature and Foreign Languages, Allameh Tabataba'i University, Tehran, Iran.  
Email: haddadi.majid@gmail.com



### Bibliography

- Ahmadzadeh, Shideh. "Plato's Philosophy of Love and Logocentrism". *Journal of Human Sciences* 39-40, no. 1 (Autumn & Winter 2003-2004): 1-10. [In Persian]
- Baqershahi, Ali Naqi. "Reflection of Platonic Love in the Christian World". *Journal of Science and Religion Research* 8, no. 1 (November 2017): 1-17. [In Persian]
- Belfore, Elizabeth S. *Socrates' Daimonic Art, Love for Wisdom in Four Platonic Dialogues*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2012.
- Bierlein, J. F. *Parallel Myths*. Translated by Abbas Mokhber. Sixth Edition. Tehran: Markaz Publications, 2017. [In Persian]
- Bury, R. G. (ed.). *The Symposium of Plato with Introduction, Critical Notes and Commentary*. Cambridge: Heffer and Sons Ltd, 1932.
- Cassirer, Ernst. *The Individual and the Cosmos in Renaissance Philosophy*. Translated by Moughen, Yadollah. Second Edition. Tehran: Mahi Publications, 2014. [In Persian]
- Jaeger, Werner. *Paideia*. Translated by Mohammad Hasan Lotfi. Second Edition. Tehran: Kharazmi Publications, 2014. [In Persian]
- Jaspers, Karl. *Plato*. Translated by Mohammad Hasan Lotfi. First Edition. Tehran: Kharazmi Publications, 1978. [In Persian]
- Mosleh, Ali Asghar. *The Other; A Research on Intercultural Thought and the Ethics of Dialogue*. Tehran: Elmi Publication, 2018. [In Persian]
- Nicholson, Graeme. *Plato's Phaedrus: The Philosophy of Love*. Indiana: Purdue University Press, 1999.
- Nozick, Robert. "Love's Bond". in: *On Love* (Articles by Martha Nussbaum, Robert C. Solomon, Robert Nozick, Laurence Thomas, Annette Baier, Elizabeth Rapaport). Translated by Arash Naraghi. 149-180. Seventh Edition. Tehran: Nashr-e Ney . 2016. [In Persian]
- Nussbaum, Martha. "The Speech of Alcibiades: A Reading of Plato's Symposium". In: *On Love* (Articles by Martha Nussbaum, Robert C. Solomon, Robert Nozick, Laurence Thomas, Annette Baier, Elizabeth Rapaport). Translated by Arash Naraghi. 25-96. Seventh Edition. Tehran: Nashr-e Ney . 2016. [In Persian]
- Nygren, Anders. *Agape and Eros*. Translated by Philip S. Watson. Philadelphia: Westminister Press, 1953.
- Osborne, Catherine. *Eros Unveiled Plato and the God of Love*. Oxford:

Clarendon Press, 2002.

*Plato. Complete Works of Plato.* Translated by Mohammad Hasan Lotfi. Tehran: Kharazmi Publications, 2001.

Rasouli (Taleghani), Arezoo. "Myths of the Creation of Humankind: Comparative Mythology". *Journal of history of Iran* 7, no. 1 (Winter & Spring 2014): 27-42. [In Persian]

Rist, John M. *Augustine, Ancient Thought Baptized.* Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2003.

Singer, Irving. *Philosophy of Love: A Partial Summing-Up.* Translated by Meysam Mohammad Amini. Fifth Edition. Tehran: Nashr-e Now Publications, 2021. [In Persian]

Solomon, Robert C. "The Virtue of (Erotic) Love". *On Love* (Articles by Martha Nussbaum, Robert C. Solomon, Robert Nozick, Laurence Thomas, Annette Baier, Elizabeth Rapaport). Translated by Arash Naraghi. Seventh Edition. Tehran: Ney, 2016. [In Persian]