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Protagoras (Hackett Classics)



Synopsis

Lombardo and Bell have translated this important early dialogue on virtue, wisdom, and the nature of Socratic teaching into an idiom remarkable for its liveliness and subtlety. Michael Frede has provided a substantial introduction that illuminates the dialogue's perennial interest, its Athenian political background, and the particular difficulties and ironic nuances of its argument.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

A very readable translation that conveys both the philosophical and the dramatic context better than any existing translation. It is extremely accurate in conveying the movement of the argument and in noting significant points of philosophical usage. . . . I am very impressed with the vividness and the easy flow of the prose. --John Cooper, Princeton University

Text: English (translation) Original Language: Greek --This text refers to an alternate Paperback edition.

This is a pretty mundane and selective translation from the Greek text. There are far better (and more accurate) translations of this work by Plato.

I didn't get to use it as I had planned. But I know this series is good.

Pretty Interesting. I guess arguing was a form of entertainment back then .

Great purchase.

The most outstanding thing about this book is the translation. Absolutely horrific. The author seems to have tried to modernize the language so it would be accessible to a wider reading audience. Probably an audience of ghetto high school students since characters are saying things like "What's up?", "It's pretty obvious", and "I guess so." This translation is not worth buying for personal reading, nor is it appropriate to college courses. That said, the 27 page introduction is quite good and worth reading. It should have been published as a separate essay.

This was a much more difficult and unrewarding read than I would have thought. The loops of rhetoric that Socrates and Protagoras weave around each other, while occasionally intriguing, often seem clumsy and confused, especially about how to respond to one another. I guess its useful in that it shows that misunderstanding worked in the ancient world as well as it does today. If you really really want to read Plato, there are better dialogues out there to choose from i.e. Meno, Gorgias, Timaeus.

much ado about nothing.....

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