



Hippias Major

Plato , Paul Woodruff

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In the Hippias Major, Socrates and Hippias set out to find a definition for "beauty", but are destined to fail due to their inability to formulate an answer which encompasses the entire concept. The actual Greek term that is used in the dialogue is καλόν, which as an adjective often means fine or noble as well as beautiful. For this reason, translators such as Paul Woodruff typically translate the term (τὸ καλόν—the abstract noun of the adjective) as "the Fine" (things) instead of "Beauty."

Published with the assistance of a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities. Paul Woodruff is Professor of Philosophy, University of Texas at Austin.

Hippias Major Details

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From Reader Review Hippias Major for online ebook

Daniel St-Jean says

A quintessential Platonic dialogue. There are things to be garnished here, wisdom that escapes those who do not read it. Although some might find it rudimentary, when you dive into it there is much to be learned. For me, it was not the most profound of Plato's dialogues, but I found it still to be necessary nonetheless.

3 stars.

Andrea Manzanilla says

Lectura obligatoria Universitaria.

Nuska says

En este nuevo diálogo socrático, Platón nos habla del concepto de belleza. La diferencia con el Hippias menor no consiste en otra cosa que en la longitud del diálogo. Se intenta definir la belleza basándose en la productividad, la utilidad, el bien e incluso la producción de placer a través de los sentidos de la vista y el olfato. Sin embargo, tras un genial giro de Sócrates al argumento unitario de Hippias, la conversación queda sin alcanzar su objetivo.

Genni says

Socrates is on the search again for the true meaning of the beautiful and the good, but he is not going to have any help from this interlocutor. This dialogue was more fun to read than some of the others, simply because Socrates was downright goofy in his irony at points!

Favio Villaseñor says

it was the very first dialogue i read, so now after 3 years i read it again, finding it a little easier to read through. there is a very good presentation of the socratic method, that is very short and concerning something that concerns us all: Beauty. although they reach no definition of it at the end, it is still very interesting as it makes one want to further develop such a concept, the beautiful things are indeed difficult!

sch says

A bit tedious, but two good performances.

Valentin Sanchez says

Quite funny and thought provoking.

Bogdan says

Citit? în română?.

Melika Khoshnezhad says

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Favio Villaseñor says

this was the first work i ever read from Plato, and it had a great impact on my thought patterns as i was then exposed to the use of reason and language in a very natural way to archive greater understanding of concepts.

Hussain Ali says

Beautiful things are difficult !!

Trounin says

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(c) Trounin

Jeff Russo says

"beautiful things are difficult"

