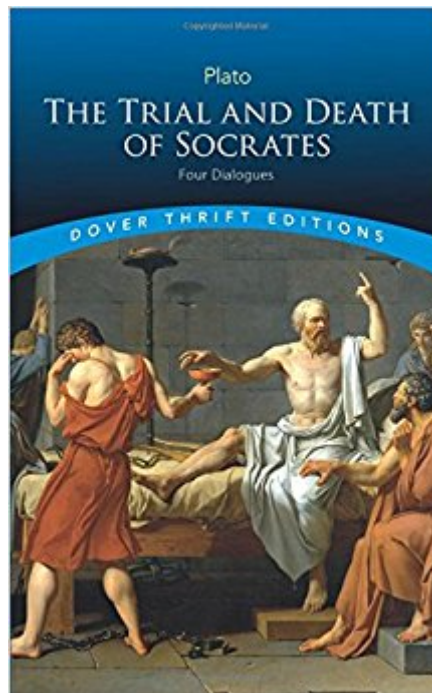




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The Trial And Death Of Socrates: Four Dialogues (Dover Thrift Editions)



Synopsis

The Dialogues of Plato (427–347 B.C.) rank with the writings of Aristotle as the most important and influential philosophical works in Western thought. In them Plato cast his teacher Socrates as the central disputant in colloquies that brilliantly probe a vast spectrum of philosophical ideas and issues. None is more exciting and revelatory than the four dialogues • Euthyphro, Apology, Crito, and Phaedo • on themes evoked by the trial and death of Socrates, accused by his enemies and detractors of crimes against the state, among them "impiety" and "corruption of the young." In Euthyphro, Socrates explores the concepts and aims of piety and religion; in Apology, he courageously defends the integrity of his teachings; in Crito, he demonstrates his respect for the law in his refusal to flee his death sentence; and in Phaedo embraces death and discusses the immortality of the soul. The four dialogues are presented here in the authoritative translation by the distinguished classical scholar Benjamin Jowett, renowned for his translations of Plato.

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Customer Reviews

Text: English (translation) Original Language: Greek

Plato ranks among the most familiar ancient philosophers, along with his teacher, Socrates, and his student, Aristotle. In addition to writing philosophical dialogues • used to teach logic, ethics, rhetoric, religion, and mathematics as well as philosophy • he founded Athens' Academy,

the Western world's first institution of higher learning.

This translation and presentation is excellent. It is amazing to read it again and see that Athens and the hypocrisy of thought then is very similar to that of our own society currently. An enlightening read!

Good condition

Given the choice between 'Justice & Truth' -- or Death -- Socrates was a Master of future Western Civilization.

This is a wonderful book that explores the life and path of a philosopher. It should help you question your own purpose and path. The description of our souls journey moved me deeply. I highly recommend this book

Good short books that explain the events during the trial of Socrates. Sold at an excellent price.

This is a much needed read for students of the Philosophy major. Sincerely, Terrence W.

Good quality and delivered on time

Anyone interested in either philosophy or Western literature should read at least three of these four classics. The one I'd skip is the last and longest, the *Phaedo*. In it, Socrates - awaiting his death - explains to his friends why the soul is immortal, engaging in one of the least convincing and most tortuous of his famous arguments. The first essay, the *Euthyphro*, is instead arguably one of the best not just among the Platonic dialogues, but among ancient Western texts in general. It is nicely written, engaging and, most importantly from a philosophical perspective, convincing. In it, Socrates is on his way to hear the charges that will eventually bring about his premature death, when he meets the cocksure Euthyphro, who is about to denounce his own father. The ensuing dialogue features Socrates at his best, including a pretty good dose of not so subtle sarcasm directed at his pompous interlocutor. Philosophically speaking, the dialogue presents the best argument ever for why gods - even if they did exist - are irrelevant to questions of morality. Plenty of Christian theologians have tried to rebut it over two and a half millennia, and they have all abysmally failed.

The remaining two dialogues, the Apology and the Crito, also concern two episodes taking place right before Socrates' death (respectively, his defense at trial and his explanation to his friends of why he accepted to die at the hand of the State, even though he had the means and opportunity to escape in exile). They too are splendid examples of philosophy in action from one of the best practitioners of all time.

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