



Course: Awakening Wonder: Truth, Goodness, and Beauty With Dr. Stephen Turley

Lesson 2: Truth, Goodness, and Beauty in the Classical World

Outline:

“All teems with symbol; the wise man is the man who in any one thing can read another.”

Plotinus

“Consider your origin; you were not born to live like brutes, but to follow virtue and knowledge.”

Dante Alighieri

Cosmic piety

Micro-macro relationship; (the polis is the bridge between the micro and the macro)
Cosmic communion (koinonia): harmony between the micro and the macro worlds

Paideia (Ancient Greece, 4th century B.C.)

- The development of a distinct type of person, enabling participation in cosmic communion
 - Aletheia (True): disclosure of reality
 - Agathos (Good): fulfillment of purpose
 - Kalos (Beautiful)
- Aporia (state of perplexity cultivated by the Socratic method, enabling the acquisition of knowledge)
- Paideia proper (moral and intellectual purification)
- Ultimate theoria (beatific vision)

Plato (427 - 347 B.C.)

- Affirmed the inter-relatedness and eternity of Truth, Goodness, and Beauty
- Argued against the supposition that Truth, Goodness, and Beauty were human constructions, but rather believed that they were embedded in the cosmic order that itself pointed to an Eternal reality (Realm of the Forms - the perfect intelligible essences generating and structuring reality...i.e. what is most real for Plato)
- Affirmed the doctrine of the immortal soul, and believed our souls to be composed of three elements: logos (reason), thymus (ethical life), and eros (desires and appetites)
- Our souls relate to the True, Good, and the Beautiful.



- Plato's Republic: The Good is the self-sufficient source of all being and the irreducible essence of reality; (all things participate in the Divine life of the Good)
- The Good needs to be revealed to us; Truth discloses the Good and Eros helps us desire the Good through the mediation of desiring what is Beautiful
- Beauty is the object of our love and is always linked to Truth and Goodness.

Arete (virtues: wisdom, moderation, justice, and courage)