

Socratic Wisdom: The Model of Knowledge in Plato's Early Dialogues

By Hugh H. Benson

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While the early Platonic dialogues have often been explored and appreciated for their ethical content, this is the first book devoted solely to the epistemology of Plato's early dialogues. Author Hugh H. Benson argues that the characteristic features of these dialogues--Socrates' method of questions and answers (*elenchos*), his fascination with definition, his professions of ignorance, and his thesis that virtue is knowledge--are decidedly epistemological. In this thoughtful study, Benson uncovers the model of knowledge that underlies these distinctively Socratic views. What emerges is unfamiliar, yet closer to a contemporary conception of scientific understanding than ordinary knowledge.

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Review

...a thorough analysis...clear and meticulously argued...--Books

"The result of Benson's efforts is a comprehensive and well-argued book that evinces the author's serious and extended engagement with Socratic philosophy. Benson's exacting scholarship sheds much welcome light on its subject matter and, in the tradition of his previous works, promises to enjoy great success in advancing our understanding of Socrates and Plato."--Christine Thomas, Philosophical Review

About the Author

Hugh H. Benson is at University of Oklahoma.

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