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Aristotle on the Many Senses of Priority

By John J. Cleary

Southern Illinois University Press, United States, 1988.

Paperback. Book Condition: New. 237 x 165 mm. Language:

English . Brand New Book. Cleary discusses the origin,

development, and use of the many senses of priority as a

central thesis in Aristotle's metaphysics. Cleary contends that

one of the most revealing problems for the ambiguity of

Aristotle's relationship to Platonism is that of the ontological

status of mathematical objects. In support of his claim, Cleary

analyzes a curious passage from Aristotle's Topics, where he

appears to accept a schema of priorities that makes

mathematical entities more substantial than sensible things.

How does Aristotle try to reconcile the ordering of things

dictated by sciences like mathematics and dialectic with the

ordering of sense experience upon which his own physics and

metaphysics are based? To find the answer, Cleary reviews

three different outlines of the many senses of priority given by

Aristotle himself and found in Categories 12-13, Metaphysics

Delta 11, and Metaphysics Theta 8. Cleary suggests there is an

implicit hierarchy for Aristotle that leads him to posit the Prime

Mover at its apex as complete actuality and, therefore, as the

focus for the concept of priority. Having reviewed Aristotle...



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