



PLATONIC PHILOSOPHY  
A WORKSHOP AND MEDITATION  
ON THE LEARNING AND PRACTICE  
OF THE DIALECTIC FROM PLATO'S  
REPUBLIC, BOOKS VI AND VII  
DIRECTED BY PIERRE GRIMES

The most brilliant light of Being has been called divine luminosity, and those seeking it through understanding are called philosophers. It is also said to be the very manifestation of God, but this idea of God is, of course, described, at least tentatively, as The One, and those who seek to grasp the mysteries of their relationship are called Platonic philosophers. For, surely, to say that the One cannot be predicated or described leaves the mystery of how that about which nothing can be said can beget that most brilliant light of being. In Plato's terms *the God* is called the Good or the One while the divine luminosity is called the Idea of the Good. For, in Greek the word *Idea* means *to behold* such a vision.

In Plato's *Republic* he outlines a way these most fundamental spiritual ideals can be understood. In doing so he also presents a philosophical practice, a jnana yoga, for reaching an experience of that divine luminosity. This most profound teaching is described in the sixth and seventh books of his *Republic* as his dialectic. Surely, many have sought to understand the dialectic without going through the rigorous multi-leveled practice, however, those who have taken on this greater challenge come to realize the destiny of man and why it is possible to say that in the midst of all the suffering and ignorance that we encounter there is the overarching level of justice permeating all that is and that exists.

The multi-levels of the dialectic start with a primary analogy that is then modeled in terms of a cognitive analogy that provides the grounds for presenting it in terms of an allegory that functions as a spiritual map to chart not only the primary types of blocks to its realization, but also to present the way of the ideal philosopher. The learning and practice of this philosopher presupposes the mastery of the interrelated artful studies that are crowned with the dialectic. The philosopher's journey brings the need for dream work, the necessity to face and challenge the early false beliefs transmitted by family and clan, yet all this is but the prelude to dealing with the problem of the justification of the ways of divine providence through a philosophical understanding of reincarnation.

The background for this seminar: Review Books VI and VII of the *Republic*, the cosmology and view of Providence in Plato's *Timaeus*, the idea of necessary numbers in Plato's second hypothesis of his *Parmenides*, and from Proclus' *Elements of Theology* propositions 148 and its supporting propositions -- (133, 24, 113), (125, 62, 28), (146, 31) -- and, of course, Proclus' *Commentary of Plato's the Timaeus*.

Date: Friday evening, 8pm, Feb. 23 through Sunday evening, 6pm, Feb. 25, 2013

Location: Sunset Beach Women's Club Cost: \$135

Reservations: Julie Hoigaard - email: [jhoigaar@gmail.com](mailto:jhoigaar@gmail.com)

To help with meal planning and preparation contact: nancy1grimes@yahoo.com  
The talk, exploration, and sitting schedule will follow our usual pattern and will be sent to those reserving a place.