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Virtue is Knowledge. The Moral Foundations of Socratic Political Philosophy

By Smith Pangle, Lorraine

Chicago Press university, 2014. Couverture rigide. Book Condition: Neuf. Dust Jacket Condition: Neuf. 304 pages. Présentation de l'éditeur : "The relation between virtue and knowledge is at the heart of the Socratic view of human excellence, but it also points to a central puzzle of the Platonic dialogues: Can Socrates be serious in his claims that human excellence is constituted by one virtue, that vice is merely the result of ignorance, and that the correct response to crime is therefore not punishment but education? Or are these assertions mere rhetorical ploys by a notoriously complex thinker? Lorraine Smith Pangle traces the argument for the primacy of virtue and the power of knowledge throughout the five dialogues that feature them most prominently the Apology, Gorgias, Protagoras, Meno, and Laws and reveals the truth at the core of these seemingly strange claims. She argues that Socrates was more aware of the complex causes of human action and of the power of irrational passions than a cursory reading might suggest. Pangle's perceptive analyses reveal that many of Socrates' teachings in fact explore the factors that make it difficult for humans to be the rational creatures that he at first seems to claim. Also critical to...



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