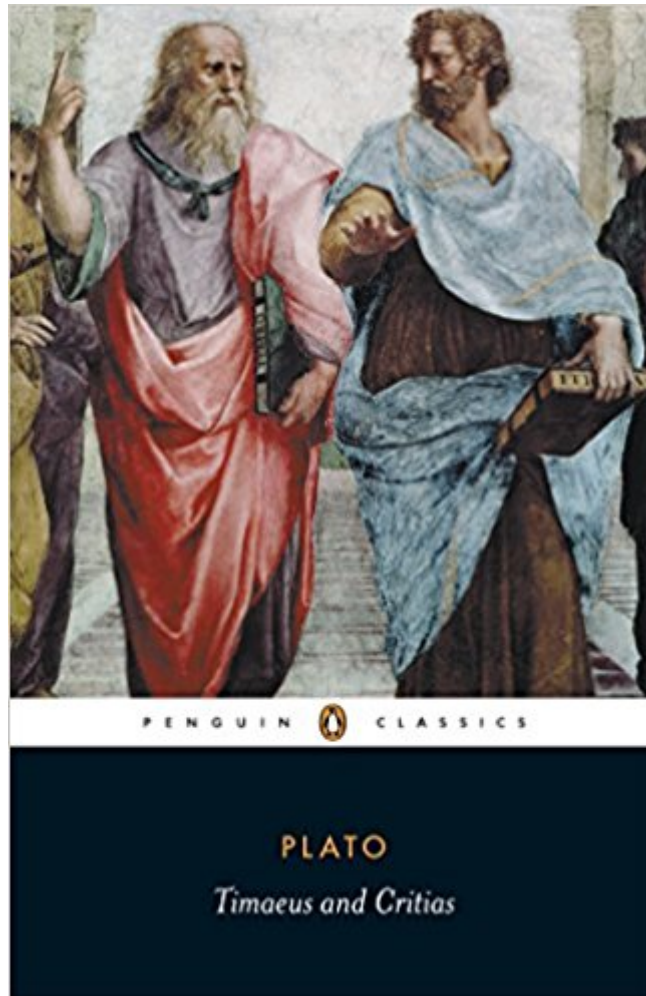




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Timaeus And Critias (Penguin Classics)



Synopsis

Timaeus and Critias is a Socratic dialogue in two parts. A response to an account of an ideal state told by Socrates, it begins with Timaeus's theoretical exposition of the cosmos and his story describing the creation of the universe, from its very beginning to the coming of man. Timaeus introduces the idea of a creator God and speculates on the structure and composition of the physical world. Critias, the second part of Plato's dialogue, comprises an account of the rise and fall of Atlantis, an ancient, mighty and prosperous empire ruled by the descendents of Poseidon, which ultimately sank into the sea. For more than seventy years, Penguin has been the leading publisher of classic literature in the English-speaking world. With more than 1,700 titles, Penguin Classics represents a global bookshelf of the best works throughout history and across genres and disciplines. Readers trust the series to provide authoritative texts enhanced by introductions and notes by distinguished scholars and contemporary authors, as well as up-to-date translations by award-winning translators.

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Customer Reviews

Text: English, Greek (translation) --This text refers to an alternate Paperback edition.

Plato (c.427-347 BC) stands with Socrates and Aristotle as one of the shapers of the whole intellectual tradition of the West. He founded the Academy in Athens, the first permanent institution

devoted to philosophical research and teaching, and the prototype of all Western universities. Plato wrote over twenty philosophical dialogues. Thomas Kjeller Johansen studied philosophy and classics at Trinity College, Cambridge. He is now University Lecturer in Ancient Philosophy at Oxford University and Tutorial Fellow of Brasenose College, Oxford. His publications include *Plato's Natural Philosophy: A Study of the Timaeus-Critias* (Cambridge 2004).

2/3 of this book is Lee's explanation/interpretation of Plato's ancient text. As such, I found after reading a couple of pages, I skipped immediately to Plato's words and did not find it difficult to understand, but then, I have studied the ancient world more than most. Nevertheless, Plato's words are clear and easy to understand as written. Author Lee's analysis is helpful, particularly for those unfamiliar with Greek history and the story of Atlantis.

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Definitely worth reading!

Atlantis. That is what most people are familiar with, from this ancient tale. If one reads carefully, it is easy to tell that this is a fictitious work by Plato, perhaps with real historic connections. We call such a piece today a historic-fiction, so that would make *Timaeus* and *Critias* from Penguin Classics, ancient-fiction. But Atlantis is not the real focus of the work. The real focus is the ancient civilization of Athens. The story provides respectful details of Atlantis because, according to the story, Atlantis attacks Athens in an all out invasion. Athens, however, prevails. There are some who would argue that Plato is not referring to the real Atlantic ocean because of an island in the south of Greece that seems to fit the details. The problem is that Plato makes a very distinct description: Atlantis had a dominating power over much of the world, including a reference to a land far across the ocean, including all of North Africa. That would make Atlantis a very powerful nation indeed. If there was rivalry between Athens and Atlantis, as described in Plato, then they could not both have existed so close as being on the same continent and have Atlantis gain such strength. So, either Atlantis is a fiction in totality (a very real possibility that can be seen in the story's set up) or is a myth that is based on a great deal of truth. How many gods did Greece believe in? I don't know, but even the ancient Greeks believed that there was ONE God who made the whole of the universe. Then God made Kronos, who then made the lesser Gods such as Athena and Atlas (the father of Zeus). Plato details all this in the first part of the book, referred to as *Timaeus*. I recommend this to anyone who is

interested in the Atlantis impact on our modern day world.

It was a dollar for a timeless classic

Love having this book in my collection!

If you ever wondered about our civilization origin, Atlantis, ... you should read it. I do believe Santorini was Atlantis once, and there is plenty of evidence of it. The mythic land, similarities of descriptions. Plato did a great job!

ok

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