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A Discussion by Georgia Mouroutsou on Plato’s Missing Dialogue

Georgia Mouroutsou

But cautious people must be especially on their guard in the matter of resemblances, for they are very slippery things. Plato, Sophist, 231a.

And so we must take courage and attack our father’s theory here and now, or else, if any scruples prevent us from doing this, we must give the whole thing up. Plato, Sophist, 241a.

Wir dürfen kaum sagen, daß wir weiter seien als Plato. Nur im Material der wissenschaftlichen Erkenntnisse, die er benutzt, sind wir weiter. Im Philosophieren selbst sind wir noch kaum wieder bei ihm angelangt.
Karl Jaspers, Einführung in die Philosophie, p. 9.1

I. PLATO’S MISSING PHILOSOPHOS AND GILL’S FINDINGS

Who is Plato’s philosopher? Is she the true rhetorician or the true politician, or perhaps even the true poet? Plato’s philosopher is excellent in persuasion; she conducts real politics and even composes philosophical poetry. But what about the danger of sophistry? Plato’s philosopher-types may give the impression that they are sophists, and could have even been able to become sophists, had they intended to mislead. But they are unwilling to exercise their ability to deceive, and instead do nothing but educate.2 To make matters worse, don’t Plato’s philosophers seem to fall into a kind of madness whenever they try to disturb common views and traditional customs, and when turning things upside down in their interlocutors and readers?3 Plato’s philosophers admittedly

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