

Contents

1	Introduction	<i>page</i> 1
1.1	<i>The Question of Myth</i>	1
1.2	<i>The Historical and Cultural Context of Platonic Myth</i>	3
1.3	<i>The Varieties of Myth in the Dialogues</i>	7
1.4	<i>The Philosophical Questions Surrounding Myth</i>	9
1.5	<i>Structure and Scope of This Book</i>	13
1.6	<i>Methodological Considerations</i>	15
2	Boreas, Typhon, and the Allegorization of Myth	19
2.1	<i>The Opening Scene</i>	19
2.2	<i>The Myth of Boreas and Oreithuia</i>	23
2.3	<i>Allegorical Interpretation</i>	27
2.4	<i>The Critique of Allegorical Interpretation</i>	30
2.5	<i>The Importance of Self-Knowledge</i>	35
2.6	<i>“Saying Goodbye” to Myth</i>	38
2.7	<i>The Philosophical Use of Myth</i>	41
3	The Palinode: Soul and Eros	44
3.1	<i>Context</i>	45
3.2	<i>Proof</i>	47
3.3	<i>The Limits of Psychological Discourse</i>	54
3.4	<i>The Nature of the Soul</i>	59
3.5	<i>Intrapersonal Communication</i>	65
3.6	<i>Myth and Thumos</i>	68
3.7	<i>Myth as a Model</i>	73
3.8	<i>Eros and Muthos</i>	75
3.9	<i>Eschatology</i>	77
4	The Palinode: Forms and Knowledge	88
4.1	<i>The Divine Banquet</i>	88
4.2	<i>Forms as the Objects of Knowledge</i>	90
4.3	<i>The Nature and Attainability of Knowledge</i>	91

vi	<i>Contents</i>	
4.4	<i>Myth and the Limits of Knowledge</i>	95
4.5	<i>Myth and the Limits of Language</i>	98
4.6	<i>The Yogic View of Platonic Myth</i>	100
4.7	<i>Myth and Recollection</i>	102
5	<i>The Palinode: Tradition and Philosophy</i>	108
5.1	<i>The Platonic Appropriation of Tradition</i>	108
5.2	<i>The Construction of Philosophy</i>	118
5.3	<i>Turning toward Philosophy</i>	122
5.4	<i>Myth for Whom?</i>	127
6	<i>The Cicadas</i>	133
6.1	<i>Context</i>	134
6.2	<i>The Danger of the Cicada Song</i>	138
6.3	<i>The History of the Cicadas</i>	144
6.4	<i>The Role of the Cicada Myth</i>	147
7	<i>Rhetoric and Dialectic</i>	153
7.1	<i>The Nature of Rhetoric</i>	154
7.2	<i>The True Art of Rhetoric</i>	162
7.3	<i>Dialectic</i>	171
8	<i>Theuth, Thamus, and the Critique of Writing</i>	181
8.1	<i>Orality and the Rise of Writing in Plato's Athens</i>	182
8.2	<i>Theuth and Thamus</i>	185
8.3	<i>The Critique of Writing</i>	193
8.4	<i>The Gardens of Adonis and Legitimate Discourse</i>	198
8.5	<i>Writing and Platonic Myth</i>	203
8.6	<i>Writing and Platonic Dialogue</i>	209
8.7	<i>The Limits of Discourse and Discursive Thought</i>	215
8.8	<i>Play and Seriousness</i>	218
8.9	<i>A Concluding Prayer</i>	227
9	<i>The Phaedrus as a Whole</i>	236
9.1	<i>The Phaedrus and the Problem of Unity</i>	236
9.2	<i>Myth and Thematic Unity</i>	239
9.3	<i>Myth and Structural Unity</i>	243
9.4	<i>The Strategic Approach to Unity</i>	254
10	<i>Conclusion</i>	259
10.1	<i>The Functions of Platonic Myth</i>	259
10.2	<i>The Nature and Value of Myth</i>	263
10.3	<i>The Nature of Platonic Writing</i>	267
10.4	<i>In Search of the Swan</i>	268
	<i>Bibliography</i>	273
	<i>Index of Passages from Plato</i>	295
	<i>General Index</i>	299