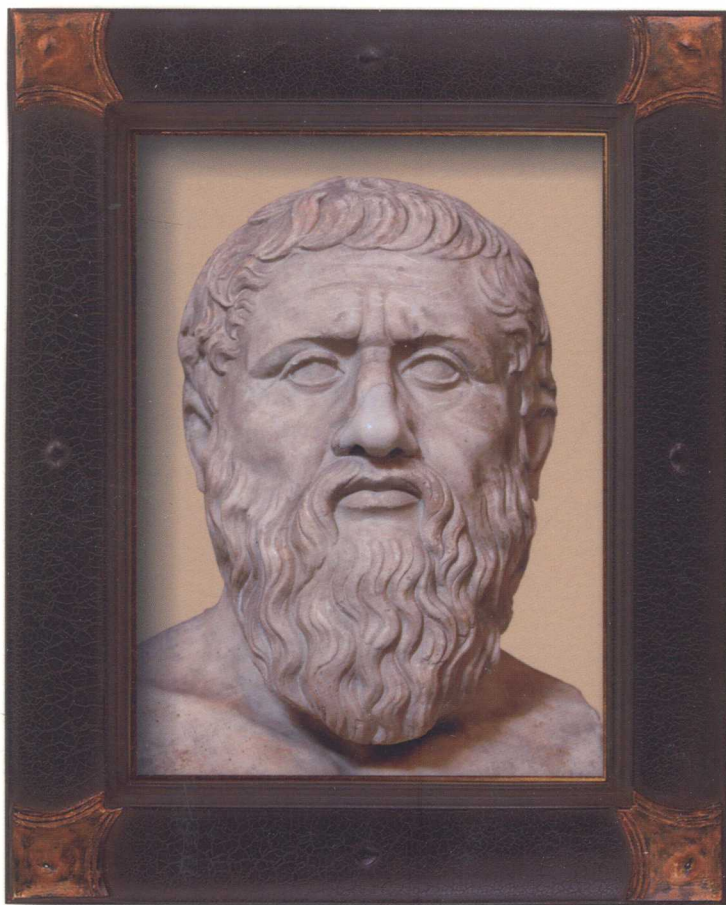


【了如指掌·人物馆】

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了如指掌

在咖啡馆遇见柏拉图

【英】唐纳德·R. 莫尔 / 著 张媛媛 / 译



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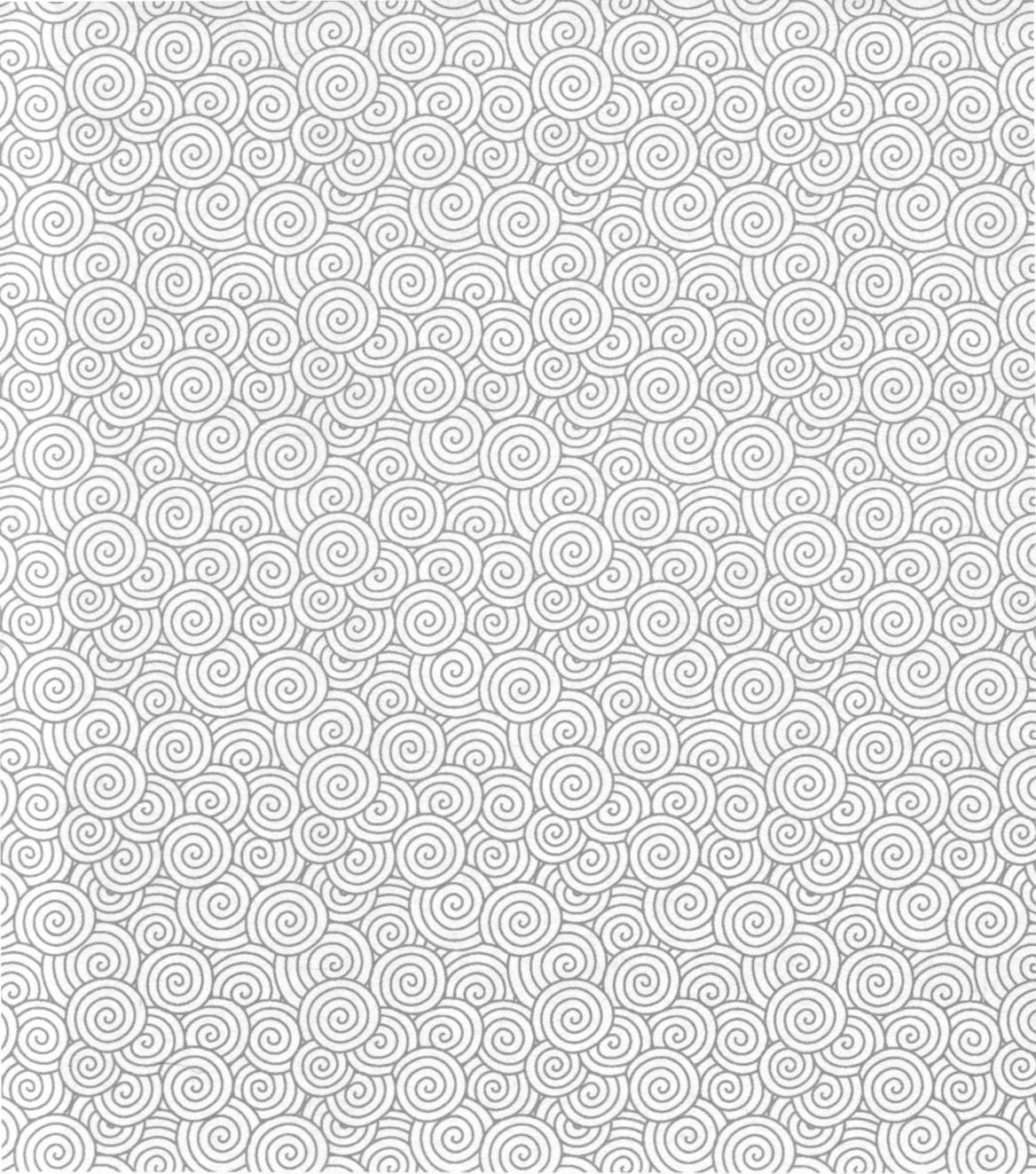
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🌀 了如指掌 | 探寻知识与思维的乐趣……





万如指掌



COFFEE WITH

PLATO

DONALD R. MOOR

FOREWORD BY ROBERT M. PIRSIG

【英】唐纳德·R. 莫尔 / 著 【美】罗伯特·M. 波希格 / 序

张媛媛 / 译



COFFEE WITH

PLATO

在 咖 啡 馆 遇 见 柏 拉 图

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Foreword

by ROBERT M. PIRSIG

There is an old Hindu story about a fish that searches high and low, and far and wide, to find this mysterious thing he has heard of called "water," but he searches and searches and never finds it. The same problem occurs when we try to find Plato. It is so hard to find where Plato is because it is so hard to find where Plato is not. We live inside the mind of Plato. Whenever we reason about things dialectically, we are imitating Plato. As Alfred North Whitehead has said, "The safest generalization that can be made about the history of Western philosophy is that it is all a series of footnotes to Plato."

When attorneys argue a case before a court, they are re-enacting Plato's dialectic. When the board of directors of a corporation decides which direction to take the company, it also is re-enacting the dialogues of Plato. When a parliament or congress convenes to decide the future of a nation, it adheres to Plato's rules.

Even when we "debate" privately in our own minds what we want to do next with our lives, that "debate" is a dialogue of Plato. When we go to school we are actually entering a descendant of Plato's original Academy, and what we learn there is what Socrates and Plato taught: Always keep an open mind. Consider many answers, and carefully examine each answer to see which seems best. Do not use emotion to arrive at this answer. Do not threaten force to make others agree with

序言

在印度流传着一个古老的故事：有一条鱼，它非常渴望能够寻找到人们说的叫做“水”的神秘物质。于是它上下、左右、南北、东西，反反复复地寻找，但怎么也找不到。同样的困扰也发生在人们试图寻找柏拉图的过程中。我们很难找出柏拉图在哪里，因为它无处不在。我们生活在柏拉图思想的世界里，每当我们用辩证的观点分析事物的时候，我们就是在效仿柏拉图。正如阿尔弗雷德·诺思·怀特海所说：“如果要对西方哲学史作一个概括的话，最确切的说法莫过于它是对柏拉图思想所作的一系列注脚。”

律师进行法庭辩论，他们用的是柏拉图的辩证法；董事局开会决定企业未来发展方向，他们用的是柏拉图式的对话；国会召开会议，决定一个国家的前途，他们遵循的也是柏拉图思想的法则。

甚至当我们独处，思考人生下一步的方向时，那“思考”亦如柏拉图式的对话。我们进入学校学习，学校实际上就是柏拉图创建的“学园”演变而来的现代产物。而我们在学校学到的知识，正是由苏格拉底和柏拉图教授的：始终让思想处于一种开放的状态。从多个角度考虑问题，仔细思量每一种可行性方案，找出最佳解决方法。不要感情用事，不要让情绪控制你的行为或胁迫他人认同你。深思熟虑，选择最适合你的方式，从容生活。当你以

you. Reason thoughtfully and calmly and choose from these answers which one seems the best way to conduct your life, and if you do this not only your own life but the lives of others around will become better and better.

What Socrates and Plato and their followers as well as some of the pre-Socratic philosophers were establishing was a whole new intellectual level of belief that knowledge and logic and the art of argument were sufficient to guide the world. Today all this seems so natural and obvious that it is hard to see that someone had to sit down and actually invent it. But look at what the world was like before Plato was born, look at other countries today where Plato's way of reasoning has never been understood, and you will see what an enormous gift this philosopher has left to all of us.

Today when we study Plato what we are most likely to see are his differences from our modern way of thinking, and it is normal to think that he is wrong and we are right. But one can benefit greatly by following his advice to keep an open mind. Try to see what forces caused him to reason the way he did. And perhaps speculate on what people will think of our own beliefs and customs 2,400 years from now.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Robert M. Pirsig". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping 'R' and a long, trailing 'g'.

这样的方式生活，不仅你自己，连同你身边人的人生，也会变得越来越美好。

苏格拉底、柏拉图，以及他们的追随者，还有苏格拉底之前的哲学家们为我们建立了一种全新的智力层次上的理念，即：知识、逻辑以及论证艺术足以引导世界。这一切在今时今日的我们看来，是如此显而易见且理所当然，以至鲜有人考虑过这种理念曾是某人坐下来冥思苦想的结果。追溯历史，看看柏拉图出生前的世界是什么模样，再看看当今没有受到柏拉图教化的其他国家是什么模样，你就会发现这位伟大哲学家给我们留下的是怎样一份珍贵的礼物。

今天，当我们探讨柏拉图时，很容易看到他与现代思维方式之间的差异。我们会认为他是错误的，我们是正确的。这无可厚非。但不要忘了他的“保持开放的思想”让多少人受益终身。因此，我们就可以在批评他之前，思考一下，是什么驱使他形成这样的思维方式，2400年前的人们是怎样看待现代理念和习俗的。

罗伯特·M.波希格

INTRODUCTION

The central place that Plato occupies in the European philosophical tradition is due to a number of factors. He was the first Western philosopher whose works have survived intact. These works have remained influential because of their wide scope, their incisive reasoning, and their power to engage readers. Plato's frequent use of literary devices—myths, metaphors, and allegories—has succeeded in enticing readers who might have been less attentive to bare treatises.

Plato did not speak in his own voice, but had the characters of his dialogues speak for themselves—in this way presenting readers with a variety of philosophical perspectives. By holding himself in the background he left room for radically different interpretations of his works, from the otherworldly religious doctrines of the neo-Platonists to the severely anti-metaphysical notions of present-day analytic philosophers.

In this imagined conversation Plato is invited to speak for himself. These dialogues avoid almost entirely the literary devices that have given rise to the religious and metaphysical ideas that are so often associated with him. Nearly all of the discussion is focused on the fundamental social, political, and philosophical issues on which it is quite certain that Plato held definite views. Here we meet Plato on the ground that matters to us all.

导读

柏拉图能在欧洲哲学史上占主导位置，原因很多。他是西方哲学史上第一位作品完整保留下来的哲学家。其作品涉及范围颇广，推理精辟，引人入胜。此外，他的作品中使用了大量的文学创作技巧，如神话传说、隐喻、寓言等，成功吸引了一大批读者，否则人们对于枯燥的论证是不会感兴趣的。

柏拉图的作品中不单只有他个人的声音，而是以对话的形式让不同角色来自话自说——以此向读者们呈现出多元的哲学视角。在这样的创作方式中，作者将自己隐藏在幕后，给作品留下最大化的解释空间。从新柏拉图学派的彼世主义宗教信条到当代分析哲学家们对形而上学概念的坚决反对，都是对柏拉图著作的诠释。

在本书的这场虚构对话中，柏拉图应邀代表自己发表言论。书中的对话尽量不使用文学技巧，以避免那些被人们太常与柏拉图联系在一起的宗教观及形而上学概念。本书探讨的重点是社会、政治、哲学等方面的基本问题，这些是我们确信柏拉图本人抱有的明确看法，同时也是大众普遍关切的议题。亲爱的读者，请加入我们的咖啡时间，期待一场与柏拉图的华丽邂逅吧！