



Symposium Of Plato Shelley Translation

By Percy Bysshe Shelley

St. Augustines Press. Paperback. Book Condition: New.

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In the summer of 1818, Percy Bysshe Shelley pulled himself away from a flurry of other projects to devote himself to translating Platos Symposium. Besides being one of the very great lyric poets of Romanticism, Shelley was an accomplished Hellenist, and had a natural sympathy for Platos way of seeing the world. The result of his labor was a translation of Platos principal work on love that is, in both clarity and felicity of expression, unmatched by any contemporary translation. Much of what the dialogue offers to todays reader - namely, its invitation to see erotic experience as the privileged locus of our contact with the sacred and the divine - is lost in translation by failures of tone more than by inaccuracies or simple infelicities. The elevation and sophistication of Shelleys prose makes his translation a much better English vehicle for Platos writing than the rather chatty and colloquial translations current today. Platos speeches on love need an English idiom in which myth is at home, and in which humor rises to urbanity rather than descending to mere wit and joke. With Shelley, we...



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