



Plato: Laws 10: Translated with an Introduction and Commentary (Clarendon Plato Series)

Robert Mayhew

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The *Laws* is Plato's last and longest dialogue. Although it has been neglected (compared to such works as the *Republic* and *Symposium*), it is beginning to receive a great deal of scholarly attention. Book 10 of the *Laws* contains Plato's fullest defence of the existence of the gods, and his last word on their nature, as well as a presentation and defence of laws against impiety (e.g. atheism). Plato's primary aim is to defend the idea that the gods exist and that they are good - this latter meaning that they do not neglect human beings and cannot be swayed by prayers and sacrifices to overlook injustice. As such, the *Laws* is an important text for anyone interested in ancient Greek religion, philosophy, and politics generally, and the later thought of Plato in particular.

Robert Mayhew presents a new translation, with commentary, of Book X of the *Laws*. His primary aim in the translation is fidelity to the Greek. His commentary focuses on philosophical issues (broadly understood to include religion and politics), and deals with philological matters only when doing so serves to better explain those issues. Knowledge of Greek is not assumed, and the Greek that does appear has been transliterated. It is the first commentary in English of any kind on *Laws X* for nearly 140 years.

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