

The Atlantis Dialogue

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Plato , Aaron Shepard (Editor) , B. Jowett (Translator)

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Atlantis was first introduced by the Greek philosopher Plato in two "dialogues" he wrote in the fourth century B.C. His tale of a great empire that sank beneath the waves -- a tale that Plato never even finished -- has sparked thousands of years of debate over whether Atlantis really existed. But did Plato mean his tale as history, or just as a parable to help illustrate his philosophy?

In "The Atlantis Dialogue," you'll find everything Plato said about Atlantis, in the context he intended. Now you can read and judge for yourself!

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"An easy read . . . Provides a good starting point for anyone wanting to learn more about the Atlantis myth."
-- Judy Justice, Midwest Book Review, Mar. 2002 (Reviewer's Choice)

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SAMPLE

CRITIAS: Consider then, Socrates, if this narrative is suited to the purpose, or whether we should seek for some other instead.

SOCRATES: And what other, Critias, can we find that will be better than this, which is natural and suitable to the festival of the goddess, and has the very great advantage of being a fact and not a fiction? How or where shall we find another if we abandon this? We cannot, and therefore you must tell the tale, and good luck to you; and I in return for my yesterday's discourse will now rest and be a listener.

CRITIAS: Let me begin by observing first of all, that nine thousand was the sum of years which had elapsed since the war which was said to have taken place between those who dwelt outside the pillars of Heracles and all who dwelt within them; this war I am going to describe. Of the combatants on the one side, the city of Athens was reported to have been the leader and to have fought out the war; the combatants on the other side were commanded by the kings of Atlantis, which, as I was saying, was an island greater in extent than Libya and Asia, and when afterwards sunk by an earthquake, became an impassable barrier of mud to voyagers sailing from hence to any part of the ocean. The progress of the history will unfold the various nations of barbarians and families of Hellenes which then existed, as they successively appear on the scene; but I must describe first of all Athenians of that day, and their enemies who fought with them, and then the respective powers and governments of the two kingdoms.

The Atlantis Dialogue Details

Date : Published December 13th 2017 by Shepard Publications (first published February 1st 2001)

ISBN :

Author : Plato , Aaron Shepard (Editor) , B. Jowett (Translator)

Format : Kindle Edition 31 pages

Genre : Classics, Philosophy, Fiction, Drama

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From Reader Review The Atlantis Dialogue for online ebook

Brian says

Interesting to think that the whole of the mythology of Atlantis—books and movies and comics and everything—descends from this little, unfinished story. Remarkable.

Keith Randall says

Interesting information

Well worth the read. It not only is able to spark the imagination, it ties bits of info that due to being of a lost antiquity may envelop one's growth into the future.

Anna says

It is an interesting book not because it's talking about Atlantis but the laws and the plans for their future. Assimilation of women, giving education only to "valuable" ones, giving money to workers just enough to live on are a few of those plans. Extreme narcissism about themselves, their class etc. It is the beginning of patriotism, patriarchy and capitalism.

Harrison says

Mysterious, brief, and missing the final speech by Zeus condemning the Atlantians, one will never know the full story according to Plato. The fact that this text, just under 11 pages, has pervaded in our cultural memory is testament to its influence.

Michael says

meh

Aaron Winston says

While I have read these compiled dialogue sections within Plato's Critias and Timaeus, it was nonetheless interesting to read both sections in a diachronic compilation. The translation was easy to follow and, as when I was a small child, I still find myself enraptured by the tale of Atlantis. The editor's note, furthermore, solidifies the conception of Atlantis' fictional creation as a tool to highlight the virtues and ills of a people and city-state. As with any of Plato's dialogues, I would recommend this piece (plus it was 34 cents for the

Kindle Edition, so you can't truly go wrong).

Sherry says

The myth of Atlantis pervades and informs Western Philosophical and Fantastical thought. Here is where it all starts with Plato's dialogue where Critias explains to Socrates that Atlantis is a fact and not a myth. We get a thorough description of Atlantis, where it is in the Atlantic Ocean, how it is laid out, and how the various classes of people live. Sadly, it ends before we hear all that Critias has to tell. The Atlantis Dialogue is unfinished. Everyone who studies Western history should read this.

Mike Cook says

An enlightening description of Atlantis, alas based on this I don't believe the island existed

Aurora says

This was pretty good, I guess. Now that I have read the "original" text I can safely say that I do not believe Atlantis ever existed. The descriptions of the island continent proved to me that it could not have possibly existed, especially if it was situated between Europe and America. However, there is evidence that a city did in fact sink in a single day and night . . . on the island of Crete, which is off the coast of Greece. The stories from the survivors could have inspired Plato to write about one of the world's most well-known island, Atlantis. The same could be said for El Dorado in South America and for Shangri La in the Himalayas, they are merely fictional cities that have sparked our interests and imaginations.

Carl Hruza says

The author is a madman and should not be trusted.
