

IDEALS IN GREEK LITERATURE

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649172931

Ideals in Greek literature by William Cranston Lawton

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

WILLIAM CRANSTON LAWTON

**IDEALS IN GREEK
LITERATURE**



THEATER AT EPIDAUROS
DISTINGUISHED AMONG THE GREEKS FOR ARCHITECTURAL HARMONY AND BEAUTY

Ideals in Greek Literature

BY

WILLIAM CRANSTON LAWTON

OF ADELPHI COLLEGE

AUTHOR OF "INTRODUCTION TO GREEK LITERATURE,"
"ART AND HUMANITY IN HOMER," ETC.



The Chautauqua Press

CHAUTAUQUA, N. Y.

MCMV

READING ROOM

Chautauqua

COPYRIGHT, 1905

BY

THE POPULAR EDUCATION PUBLISHING
COMPANY

The Lakeside Press

R. R. DONNELLY & SONS COMPANY
CHICAGO

PA 3621
L3
1905
MAIN

CONTENTS

CHAPTER	PAGE
PREFACE	v
GENERAL BIBLIOGRAPHY	vii
I. THE OLDER ILIAD: Comradeship in Strife. Achilles and Patroclus. Sarpedon and Glaucus.	1
II. LATER ADDITIONS TO THE ILIAD: Family Ties. Hector and Andromache. Priam's Grief for Hector.	17
III. THE ODYSSEY: Home Love. The Return of Odysseus.	32
IV. HESIOD'S WORKS AND DAYS: Rustic Thrift.	43
V. LYRIC POETRY:	51
VI. ÆSCHYLUS AND THE PROMETHEUS: The Heroism of Endurance.	64
VII. SOPHOCLES AND THE ANTIGONE: Human Law vs. Divine Ordinance.	102
VIII. EURIPIDES AND THE ALCESTIS: The Glory of Self-Sacrifice.	139
IX. ARISTOPHANES' CLOUDS: Ridicule as a Moral Weapon.	173
X. HERODOTUS: The Battle of Salamis.	203
XI. THUCYDIDES: The Periclean Funeral Oration.	212

CHAPTER	PAGE
XII. THE PLATONIC SOCRATES: An Apostle of Righteousness. - - -	221
XIII. DEMOSTHENES ON THE CROWN: An Ideal of Civic Patriotism. - - -	237
XIV. SICILIAN IDYLLS OF THEOCRITUS: The Poetry of Rustic Life. - - -	246

PREFACE

The present volume undertakes to set directly before the student a series of masterpieces which, ever since their creation, have appealed powerfully to lovers of art and truth. When interest in the best works has been aroused, more detailed study becomes a delight. The materials for such study are indicated quite copiously in the notes at the close of each chapter. Meantime, only what has seemed absolutely necessary in the way of general introduction and elucidation has been offered.

In the classical Greek literature, from the "Iliad" to Moschos's lament for Bion, there is felt a certain unity, for in it is reflected, and idealized, the life of one remarkable people. The Greeks had already taken possession of the shores and islands of the Ægean sea at least three thousand years ago. This excitable, jealous, often cruel, but wonderfully gifted type of man appears from the first fully conscious of his diversity from the surrounding "barbarians." The Hellenes were the most artistic of races: most sensitive to harmony, whether in form, color, music, or action. In art-forms they are the teachers of all later men. The Hebrew has led the world toward spiritual abstractions, the Roman pointed the way to a stable civic organism, but in joyous unfolding of the individual sensuous life no man, not even the Florentine, has ever rivalled the fifth century Athenian, the typical Greek.

It is not easy for us to understand him. Our sense of artistic beauty is but half-developed. Our sturdy, reticent,

practical individualism is remote from his. Yet from him can best be learned a delightful lesson, the fullest enjoyment of all beauty in nature or art. The ethical quality, the moral purpose, is not always prominent. That it is usually present, nevertheless, our selections should demonstrate.