Plotinus, the father of Neoplatonism, lived in Rome during the third century A.D. As the last great philosopher in the ancient Greek tradition, he is a figure of commanding importance. Despite a marked increase in Plotinus scholarship since the 1970's, the need has been felt for a book to make Plotinus more generally accessible.

The role of the Form as an intrinsically valuable object of intellective and spiritual vision is often marginalized by the concern in contemporary Plato scholarship for its function as cause in ontology, epistemology, and ethics. Schroeder argues that the intrinsic value of Form is central to Plotinus' thought. It is indeed an object of ecstatic contemplation. Yet Plotinus builds its intrinsic value into the very structure of his understanding of creation in such a way that its philosophical uses need not be considered in abstraction from our enjoyment of it.

The author initiates us into Plotinus' thought by a deft exploration of the themes of form, light, silence, language, and love, and the vocabulary that weaves these together in such a way that the reader is enabled to begin reading Plotinus with understanding. Schroeder displays, as well as demonstrates discursively, what Plotinus understood by his doctrine of the sovereignty of Form.

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