«He who can Contemplate Ideas Will Live as God». Clement of Alexandria as Medioplatonic Philosopher

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Abstract

The Medioplatonic thought is by Plato inspired philosophy that appears in the middle of the first century b. Chr. and lasts until the end of the second century a. Chr. Beside Plutarch, Apuleius or Maximus of Tyrus, its main representants are Jewish and Christian thinkers like Philon of Alexandria, Panten, Clement of Alexandria or Origen. Especially Clement of Alexandria is a Medioplatonic thinker, who put in touch the main ideas of the Medioplatonism with the biblical revelation. His doctrine is in total agreement with both Christianity and Platonism: there is only one God in whose intellect are gathered the Platonic ideas. Between God and the human beings there is an angelic world that mediates between ideas and the concrete things. The relation with God is possible as intellectual communion (gnosis) and as contemplation (theoria). Medioplatonism was very important framework development of the Christian doctrine of faith.