

Maurizio Migliori

Lifelong Studies in Love With Plato



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Coverpicture: Katsushika Hokusai, The Great Wave off Kanagawa

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Preface

I wanted to emphasize here some important things for me, like the sense of limit, the importance of perseverance, the need for a passion. Then, aware of my limitations and my 77 years, I decided to join Hokusai's ironic hope. The reader will do the rest. This way, somehow, I also respect Plato's teaching: you, the readers, are the ones who have to discover the meaning of these proposals. In this text I talk too much.¹

«From the age of 6 I had a mania for drawing shapes of things. When I was 50, I had published an infinity of designs, but all I have produced before the age of 70 is no worth taking into account. At the age of 75 I finally apprehended something of the true quality of birds, animals, insects, fishes, and of the vital nature of grasses and trees. When I am 80 you will see real progress. At 90 I shall have penetrated even further the deeper meaning of things, at 100 I shall have become truly marvellous, and at 110 everything I create; a dot, a line, will jump to life as never before. I only beg that gentlemen of sufficiently long life take care to note the truth of my words I am writing this in my old age. I used to call myself Hokusai, but today I sign myself "The Old Man Mad About Drawing"».

1 Unfortunately it is not enough. Since many elements of my interpretation of Plato are different from the statements of traditional manuals, I have to refer, for the textual demonstration, to the two big books Migliori 2013. There is then a shorter text and exposition Migliori 2017. Furthermore I will be quoting Plato extensively, as I am mistrustful of all too clever and original interpretations that do not keep to the text. Unfortunately, Plato has written by creating a new technique, which he describes as a “game” in the *Phaedrus*. Therefore it is always necessary to know the first essay, pp. 8-19.

