



Anonymous, oligarchs, poets and supplicants in Plato's Republic I

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Analítica

The expulsion of the poets from the ideal city, a policy elaborated in Plato's Republic, is one of the most commented episodes in the history of philosophy, so there seems to be little room for novelty on the subject. Yet, in this article I will highlight an issue unattended by the available scholarship: there is an intimate relationship between poetry and oligarchy, between imitators and the regime of government that occupies the center of the scale ranging from the best to the worst. Between the poets characterized by Plato and the oligarchs, I will propose that the difference is only a matter of degree, not of nature, in the same sense that the philosopher establishes the difference between a master and a king, both equally rulers. To this end, I will examine the treatment of the figures of the supplicant, the imitator, the oligarch, and Odysseus (as a character who synthesizes them), to address the common aspects that make their reunion possible. This will lead us to some conclusions about the conflict between Plato and anonymity

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- Gran Vía, 59 28013 Madrid
- (+34) 91 456 03 60
- informa@baratz.es