

## TRADITIONAL AND COSMIC GODS IN LATER PLATO AND THE EARLY ACADEMY

This book sheds new light on Plato's cosmology in relation to Greek religion by examining the contested distinction between the traditional and cosmic gods. A close reading of the later dialogues shows that the two families of gods are routinely deployed to organise and structure Plato's accounts of the origins of the universe and of humanity and its social institutions, as well as to illuminate the moral and political ideals of philosophical utopias. Vilius Bartninkas argues that the presence of the two kinds of gods creates a dynamic, yet productive, tension in Plato's thinking which is unmistakable and which is not resolved until the works of his students. Thus the book closes by exploring how the cosmological and religious ideas of Plato's later dialogues resurfaced in the Early Academy and how the debates initiated there ultimately led to the collapse of this theological distinction.

VILIUS BARTNINKAS is an assistant professor at Vilnius University. He has published various articles on Greek philosophy and political theory, and Lithuanian translations of Plato's *Lysis* (2014) and *Alcibiades* (2016).

CAMBRIDGE CLASSICAL STUDIES

*General Editors*

J. P. T. CLACKSON, W. M. BEARD, G. BETEGH,  
R. L. HUNTER, M. J. MILLETT, S. P. OAKLEY,  
R. G. OSBORNE, C. VOUT, T. J. G. WHITMARSH

---

TRADITIONAL AND COSMIC GODS IN LATER PLATO  
AND THE EARLY ACADEMY

---

VILIUS BARTNINKAS  
*Vilnius University*





Shaftesbury Road, Cambridge CB2 8EA, United Kingdom

One Liberty Plaza, 20th Floor, New York, NY 10006, USA

477 Williamstown Road, Port Melbourne, VIC 3207, Australia

314–321, 3rd Floor, Plot 3, Splendor Forum, Jasola District Centre,  
New Delhi – 110025, India

103 Penang Road, #05–06/07, Visioncrest Commercial, Singapore 238467

Cambridge University Press is part of Cambridge University Press & Assessment,  
a department of the University of Cambridge.

We share the University's mission to contribute to society through the pursuit of  
education, learning and research at the highest international levels of excellence.

[www.cambridge.org](http://www.cambridge.org)

Information on this title: [www.cambridge.org/9781009322591](http://www.cambridge.org/9781009322591)

DOI: [10.1017/9781009322638](https://doi.org/10.1017/9781009322638)

© Faculty of Classics, University of Cambridge 2023

This work is in copyright. It is subject to statutory exceptions and to the provisions  
of relevant licensing agreements; with the exception of the Creative Commons  
version the link for which is provided below, no reproduction of any part of this work  
may take place without the written permission of Cambridge University Press.

An online version of this work is published at [doi.org/10.1017/9781009322638](https://doi.org/10.1017/9781009322638) under  
a Creative Commons Open Access license CC-BY-NC-ND 4.0 which permits re-use,  
distribution and reproduction in any medium for non-commercial purposes providing  
appropriate credit to the original work is given. You may not distribute derivative  
works without permission. To view a copy of this license, visit [https://creativecommons  
mons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/4.0](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/4.0)

All versions of this work may contain content reproduced under license from third  
parties.

Permission to reproduce this third-party content must be obtained from these third-  
parties directly.

When citing this work, please include a reference to the DOI [10.1017/9781009322638](https://doi.org/10.1017/9781009322638)

First published 2023

*A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library.*

*A Cataloging-in-Publication Data record for this book is available from the Library of  
Congress*

ISBN 978-1-009-32259-1 Hardback

ISBN 978-1-009-32261-4 Paperback

Cambridge University Press & Assessment has no responsibility for the persistence  
or accuracy of URLs for external or third-party internet websites referred to in this  
publication and does not guarantee that any content on such websites is, or will  
remain, accurate or appropriate.