

a. PLATONISM basically summarized thus:

- (1) True knowledge is possible...
- (2) But it is impossible by sense alone since these are subject to vascillation...
- (3) Hence the mind siezes on "Ideas"... transcendant forms which are gripped somewhat intuitively out of the remembering of the "soul"...a pre-created part of our being.
- (4) These ideas or forms have objective existence but are not physically displayed. All that is physically displayed and sense perceived is partial, fragmentary, or even erroneous in terms of the reality of the form or idea.
- (5) The great universal Form is the ONE...we would call God, in Platonism it is the concept of the universal Good. This one is intuitively known and sense perceptions allow us to touch the tangible manifestations of His form but not to know much about him really.
- (6) All forms, after the pattern of the One, are unchanged, eternal and fully real...they have objective existence, that is, and the physical manifestations witness to that.
- (7) Ultimately "values" are derived from the perceptions of the forms...what is important is determined by your evaluation of the physical manifestation.

This is, of course, a fairly barbarous presentation of the platonic ideal...but it should help you understand what is meant by a "platonic romance"...the poor folk are involved with the "forms" and not with each other so the association is idealistic rather than concrete. And we humorously note that if one is married, one sense perceived wife is worth about seven thousand objectively unrealized ideas.

b. NEO-PLATONISM...built on the platonic framework and developed in the 2nd century ideas of Ammonius Saccas and brought to fulfillment by Plotinus (205-270) and his star pupil, Porphyry (233-304). It involves a basic platonic symbolism with cross culture ideas that are suspiciously gnostic and eastern in orientation. It is summarized thus:

- (1) God is an emanating source of all things. He is indefinable, unalterable, and does not--or is not--diminished by virtue of the emanations. He is a self-continuing, self-sustaining source. He is not very personal and knowable only in the mystical ideal.
- (2) Mind is the second force in the world after God...it corresponds to Plato's forms in a very rough sense. Mind reflects the emanations and by mind one may grip bits of them.

Philosophy:

Platonism

PHILOSOPHY:

Neo-Platonism