



Dante's Idea of Friendship: The Transformation of a Classical Concept (Toronto Italian Studies)

Filippa Modesto

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In the ancient world, friendship was a virtue of great philosophical importance. Aristotle wrote extensively about it, as did Cicero. Their conception of friendship as a relationship based on reason and virtue was transformed by Christianity into a connection based on the mutual love of an individual and God.

In *Dante's Idea of Friendship*, Filippa Modesto offers sharp readings of the *Commedia*, *Vita Nuova*, and *Convivio* that demonstrate Dante's interest in that theme. Drawing on a lucid and wide-ranging examination of the literature on friendship, she shows how he weaved together the contradictory classical and the Christian concepts of friendship into a harmonious synthesis in which friendship became a handmaiden to salvation and happiness. A fresh, perceptive interpretation of Dante's works, *Dante's Idea of Friendship* will engage medievalists, classicists, and scholars of friendship throughout the ages.

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