

Book Notes

Presocratics

JAAP MANSFELD

Early Pythagoreanism and Parmenides are the subject of a major and scholarly new study.⁹ I received a copy via *Phronesis*; a second one was sent to me by author and publisher, with a most flattering dedication by the author which prevents me from providing a critical presentation here. The book comes with undiluted though not always mutually consistent eulogies by a constellation of scholars on its back cover. Burkert, McKirahan, Cordero (who tends to find his own Parmenides here), and Curd emphasize Hermann's knowledge of the ancient sources and his careful and useful reporting and evaluation of the positions adopted in the huge secondary literature: his ambitious and original interpretation of Parmenides, locating the arguments and proofs against the backdrop of law-giving and the law-courts, is epistemological not metaphysical, and he makes a good case for the incompatibility of the approaches demanded by thinking on the one hand and the world on the other.

⁹ A. Hermann, *To Think like God*. Pythagoras and Parmenides: The Origins of Philosophy. Las Vegas: Parmenides Publishing 2005 (distributed by The University of Chicago Press), pp. xxx, 374. Hardback, \$ 32.00, £ 22.50. ISBN 193072-00-8.

© Koninklijke Brill NV, Leiden, 2005

Also available online – www.brill.nl