

‘My soul, consider what you should do’:
Psychological Conflicts and Moral Goodness
in the Greek Novels

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Abstract

This article examines the purport of conflicts concerned with ethical goodness, as opposed to purely emotional conflicts (“what is the right thing to do?” rather than just, “what pleases me most?”), in the Greek “ideal” novels. It argues that each novel makes idiosyncratic uses of such conflicts in accordance with its narrative techniques and thought-world, that is, the set of values, moral, philosophical and theological, which underlies the characters’ behavior and structures the plot.

Key-words

Dilemmas; conflicts; emotions; philosophy; religion; moral ideals.

Autobiographical Statement

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