

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910455863403321
Autore	Bieman Elizabeth
Titolo	Plato baptized : towards the interpretation of Spenser's mimetic fictions // Elizabeth Bieman
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Toronto, [Canada] ; ; Buffalo, [New York] ; ; London, [England] : , : University of Toronto Press, , 1988 ©1988
ISBN	1-282-03961-X 9786612039614 1-4426-7851-8
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (336 p.)
Collana	Heritage
Disciplina	821/.3
Soggetti	Christian poetry, English - Early modern, 1500-1700 - History and criticism Christianity and literature - England - History - 16th century English poetry - Greek influences Neoplatonism in literature Philosophy in literature Mimesis in literature Electronic books.
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Bibliographic Level Mode of Issuance: Monograph
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Frontmatter -- Contents -- Acknowledgments -- 1. To discover ... the general intention': A Methodological Introduction -- 2. 'For wisdom is most riches': Plato and His Socrates -- 3. 'Each vnto himselfe': Systematizers, Seekers, and Seers -- 4. 'A temple faire and auncient': The Plotinian Paradigm -- 5. 'All that moueth, doth mutation loue': Metamorphoses and Baptism -- 6. 'Through hardy enterprise': Approaching Spenser -- 7. 'Beginning then below': Questioning in Love -- 8. 'Twixt them both': Questions Arising in Society -- 9. 'Upon the Pillours of Eternity': The Fusion of Horizons -- 10. 'Speeches few': An Afterword -- Notes -- Glossary -- Bibliography -- Index
Sommario/riassunto	Plato Baptized places a variety of Spenser's texts in the history of speaking, writing, reading, and interpreting which stretches from Plato?

s mentors, Pythagoras and Socrates, to the present. Expansive and formidable in its complexity of argument, yet constantly lucid, the book presents its own perceptive readings of Spenser and his literary forebears as instances of "participatory mimesis" a process Elizabeth Bieman identifies as central in the tradition of biblicalized Platonism and Neoplatonism which informed Spenser's habits of thinking. The first five chapters offer a diachronic thread through the maze of ancient texts, philosophical and biblical, which Spenser assimilated synchronically, and from which he drew the paradigms of image and language that represented for older readers evidences of his Christian humanist "faith." The later chapters explore Spenser's ever-equivocal metaphoric language, through fictions that represent all levels of the human souk, cross-connecting and unifying the world of intertextualized living. The book's thread offers occasional egress from maze and void. Tracing the evidences of questioning and doubt now fully familiar, along with those of faith, Bieman shows skepticism and affirmation ceding place to each other continually, unsettlingly, creatively, throughout tradition. The elements that academic analysis and skeptical questioning put asunder come together in the rhythmic process of questioning, aporia, and the occasional flash of understanding that the Elizabethan theologian knew as metaphoric baptism. The process, for Spenser, ends neither in despair nor complacency; in the canon, indeed, it does not end. Bieman argues that from experiences of personal knowing "which the mimetic languages of ancient philosophy, and biblical and Renaissance story cannot fully capture, but to, and through, which they torturously lead" the writer, his fictive protagonists, the reader and the interpreter participate in the production of further experiences throughout which other meanings may, evanescently, be glimpsed.
