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Autore	Proclus <approximately 410-485, >
Titolo	Ten problems concerning providence / Proclus ; translated by Jan Opsomer and Carlos Steel
Pubbl/distr/stampa	London, : Bristol Classical Press, 2012
ISBN	1-4725-5214-8 1-4725-0178-0
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (192 p.)
Collana	Ancient commentators on Aristotle
Disciplina	123
Soggetti	Providence and government of God Fate and fatalism Free will and determinism
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
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Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	"Paperback edition first published 2014"--T. p. verso.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and indexes
Nota di contenuto	Conventions -- Preface -- Introduction -- Translation -- Notes -- Philological Appendix -- Bibliography -- Index of Passages -- Index of Names -- Index of Subjects
Sommario/riassunto	"In this treatise Proclus discusses ten problems on providence and fate, foreknowledge of the future, human responsibility, evil and punishment (or seemingly absence of punishment), social and individual responsibility for evil, and the unequal fate of different animals. These problems, he admits, had been discussed a thousand times in and outside philosophical schools. Yet, as he put it, we too have to discuss them, not because we imagine that the philosophers before us have said anything valuable, but because our soul desires 'to speak and hear about these problems and wants to turn to itself and to discuss as it were with itself and is not willing to take arguments about these issues only from authorities outside'. Proclus exhorts his readers: we are to use his treatise as an opportunity to investigate these problems for ourselves 'in the secret recess of our soul' and 'exercise ourselves in the solutions of problems'. In fact, it makes no difference whether what we discuss has been said before by philosophers, so long as we express what corresponds to our own views. This exhortation may be the best presentation of the translation of this wonderful treatise from

late antiquity."--Bloomsbury Publishing

'The universe is, as it were, one machine, wherein the celestial spheres are analogous to the interlocking wheels and the particular beings are like the things moved by the wheels, and all events are determined by an inescapable necessity. To speak of free choice or self determination is only an illusion we human beings cherish.' Thus writes Theodore the engineer to his old friend Proclus, one of the last major Classical philosophers. Proclus' reply is one of the most remarkable discussions on fate, providence and free choice in Late Antiquity. It continues a long debate that had started with the first polemics of the Platonists against the Stoic doctrine of determinism. How can there be a place for free choice and moral responsibility in a world governed by an unalterable fate? Proclus discusses ten problems on providence and fate, foreknowledge of the future, human responsibility, evil and punishment (or seemingly absence of punishment), social and individual responsibility for evil, and the unequal fate of different animals. Until now, despite its great interest, Proclus' treatise has not received the attention it deserves, probably because its text is not very accessible to the modern reader. It has survived only in a Latin medieval translation and in some extensive Byzantine Greek extracts. This first English translation, based on a retro-conversion that works out what the original Greek must have been, brings the arguments he formulates again to the fore.

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