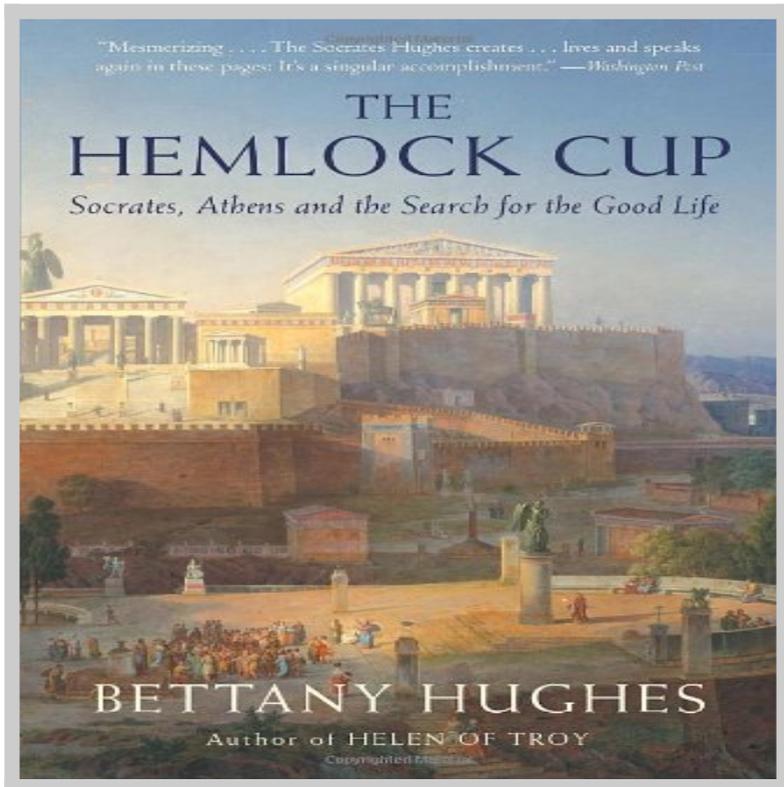


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The Hemlock Cup Socrates Athens Book Preview

From the celebrated British author and historian: a brilliant new book combining historical inquiry and storytelling — an unprecedentedly vivid portrait of Socrates and the Golden Age of classical Athens.

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We think the way we do because Socrates thought the way he did; in his unwavering commitment to truth and in the example of his own life, he set the standard for all subsequent Western philosophy. And yet, for twenty-five centuries, he has remained an enigma: a man who left no written legacy and about whom everything we know is hearsay. His life spanned — the seventy of the busiest, most wonderful and tragic years in Athenian history. — Athens in the fifth century B.C. was a city devastated by war, but, at the same time, transformed by the burgeoning process of democracy. Drawing on the latest sources — archaeological, topographical, and textual — Hughes re-creates the streets where Socrates walked, to place him there, and to illuminate for us the world as he experienced it.

She takes us through the great, teeming Agora — the massive marketplace, the heart of ancient Athens — where Socrates engaged in philosophical dialogue and where he would be condemned to death. We visit the battlefields where he fought, the red-light district and gymnasia he frequented and the religious festivals he attended. We meet the men and the few women — including his wife, Xanthippe, and his — inspiration — and confidante, Aspasia — who were central to his life. We travel to where he was born and where he died. And we come to understand the profound influences of time and place in the evolution of his eternally provocative philosophy.

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