

A-level Classical Civilisation
Component 32: Love and Relationships

The philosophical bits:

1.2: Plato on Love and Desire

[1.3: Seneca on Love and Desire]

For Seneca, see above all

<https://lizgloyn.wordpress.com/tag/ocr-seneca/>

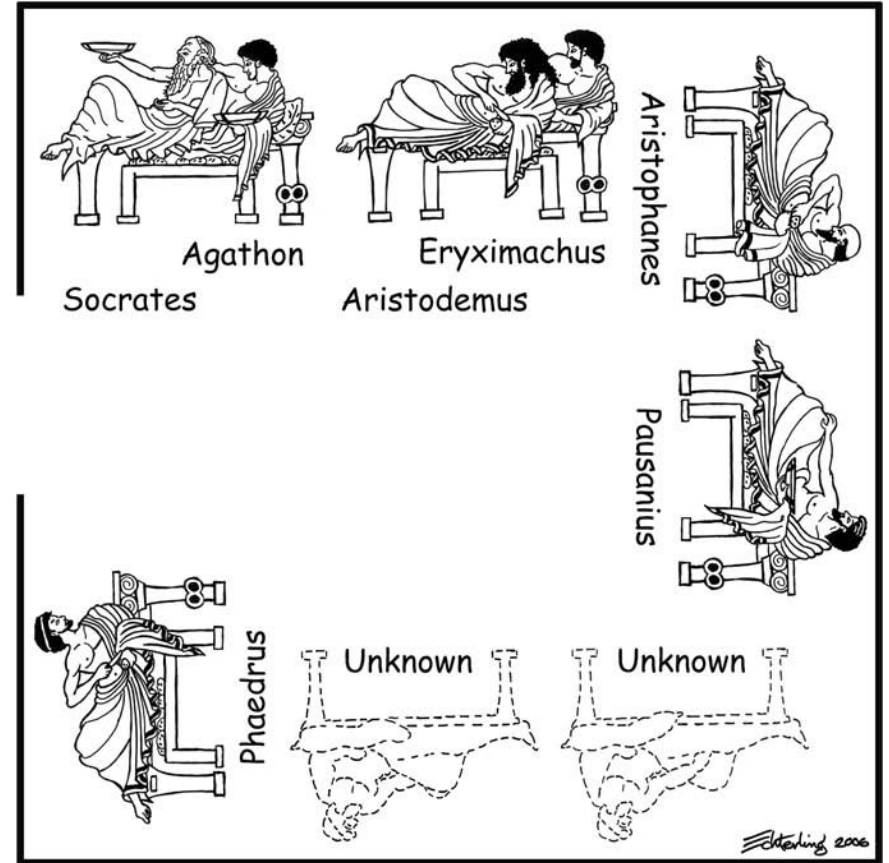
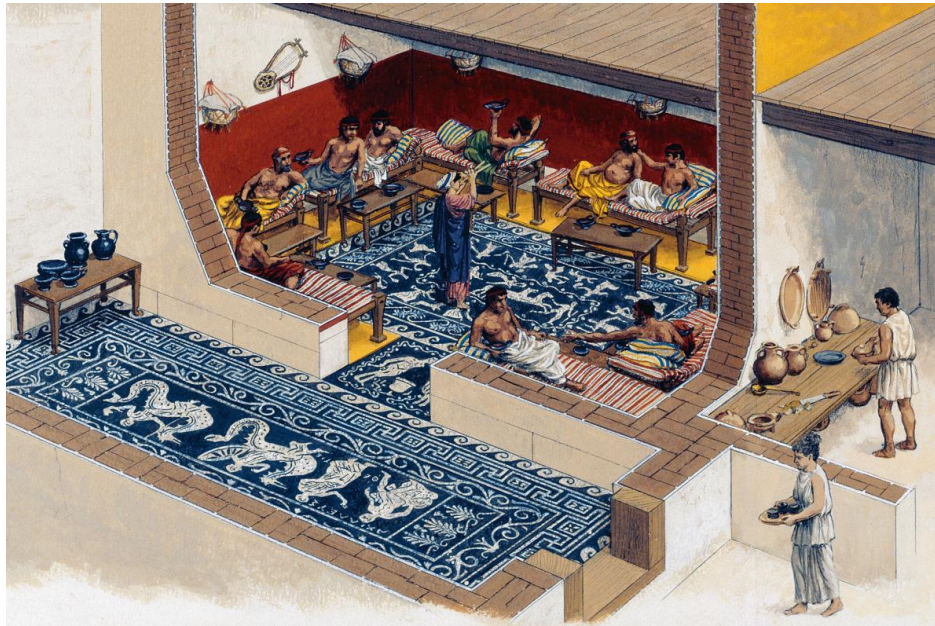
Plato on Love and Desire

No formally prescribed texts, but

Republic (and some *Laws*): erotic desire as a
social/political issue – minimizing potential to disrupt
social order, ensuring supply of new generations of citizens

Symposium (and some *Phaedrus*): erotic desire as an aspect
of **personal experience**, and in the construction of a **good
life-path**

The Symposium



Participants in Agathon's Word-fest

ΦΑΙΔΡΟΣ



Phaedrus

ΕΥΡΥΕΙΜΑΧΟΣ



Eryximachus

ΑΛΚΙΒΙΑΔΗΣ



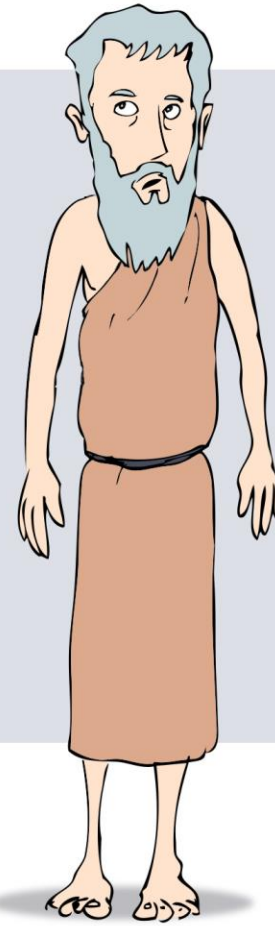
Alcibiades

ΑΓΑΘΩΝ



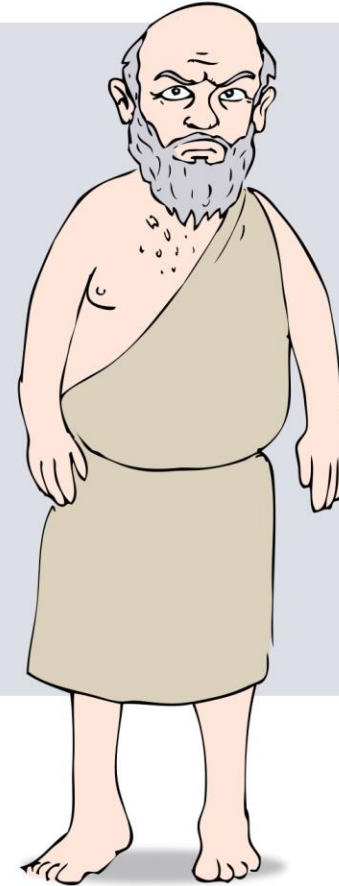
Agathon

ΑΡΙΣΤΟΦΑΝΗΣ



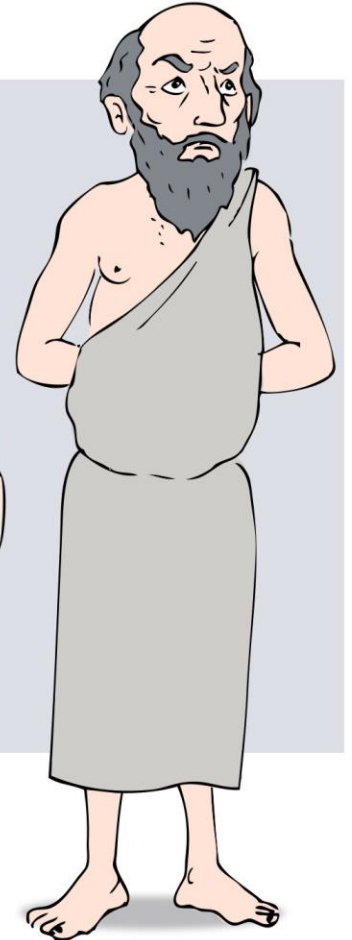
Aristophanes

ΣΩΚΡΑΤΗΣ

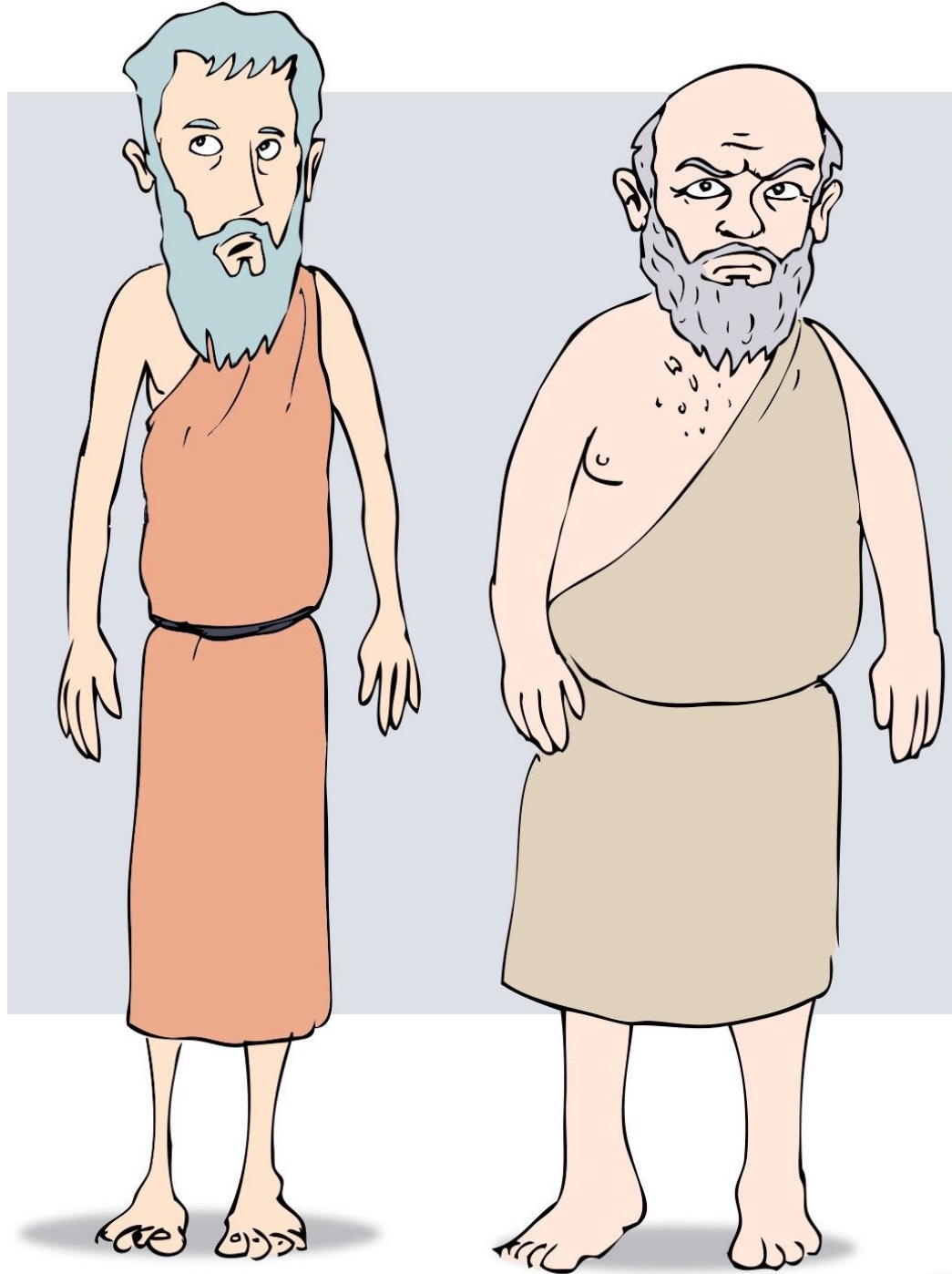


Socrates

ΠΑΥΣΑΝΙΑΣ

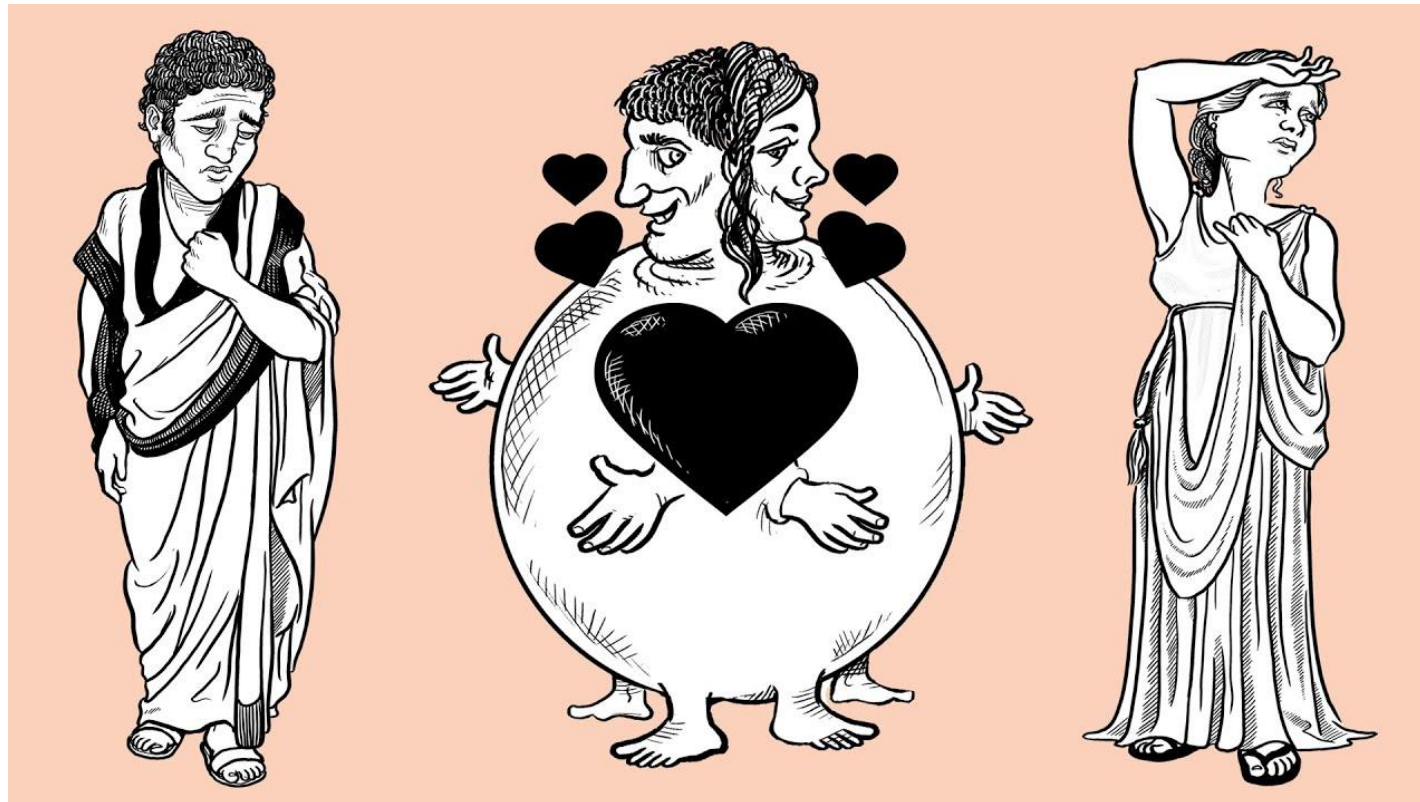


Pausanias



Aristophanes versus Socrates (Diotima)

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p02xlt8m> (How two halves make a whole)

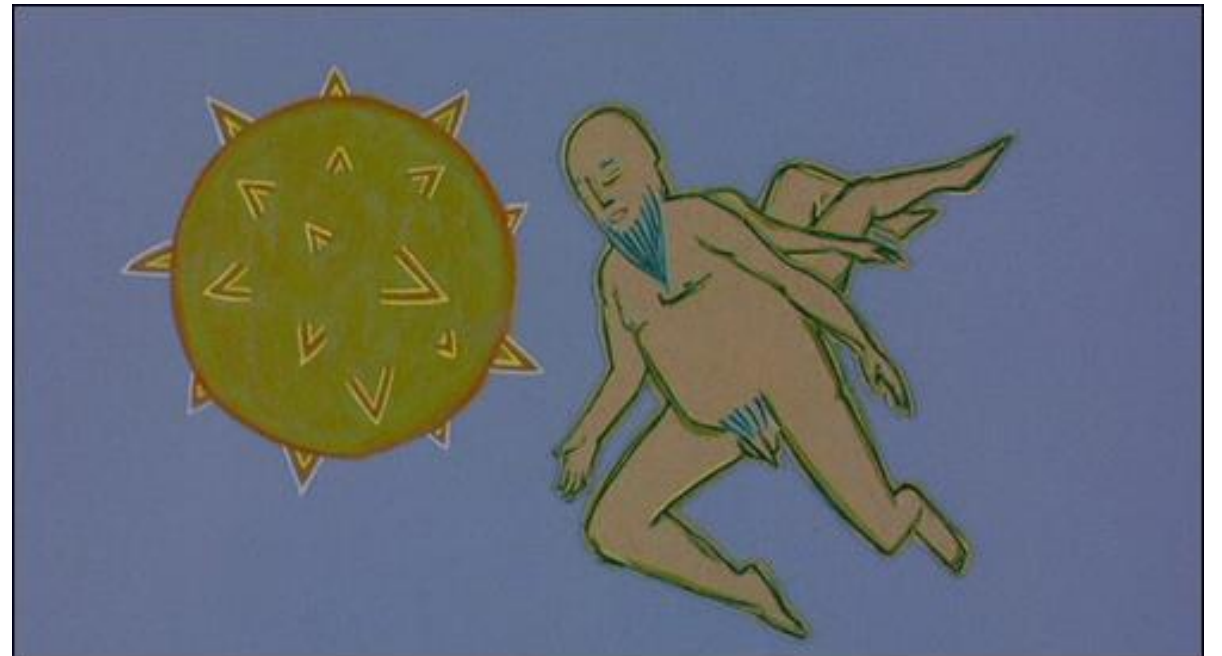


Aristophanes versus Socrates (Diotima)

See also:

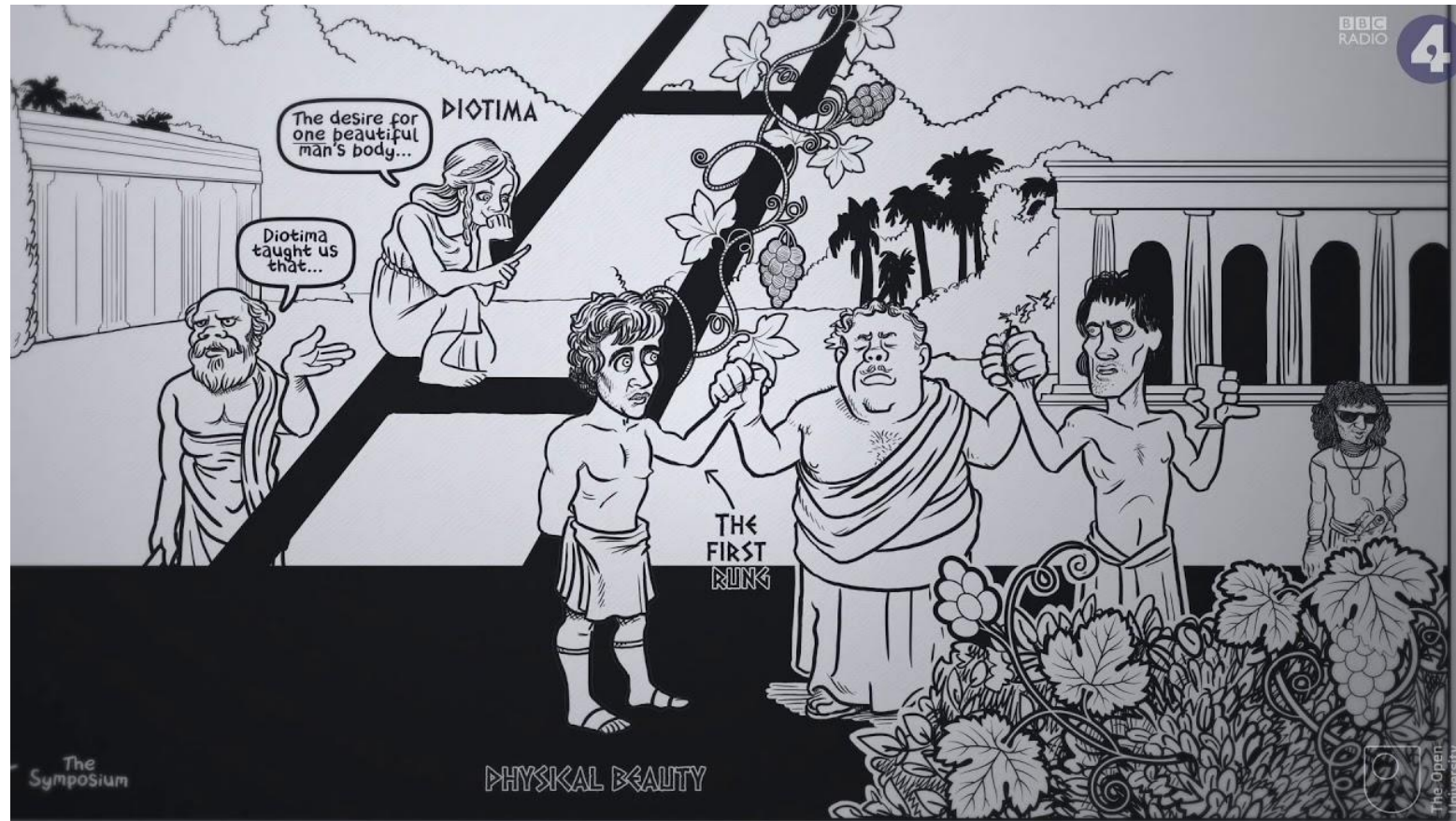
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4paSMqKYXtY>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vJUNH-Fs4EA>



Socrates (Diotima) versus Aristophanes

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p02b617n> (Diotima's ladder: From lust to morality)



Problematizing the personal

If Diotima and Socrates are right, what becomes of commitment to a significant other person, or come to that *any* personal relationships, as we head on up Diotima's ladder, each to their own solo encounter with perfect, transcendent, absolute Beauty?

Problematizing the personal: some possible answers

Symposium

- finding a (dialogue) partner; 'begetting in beauty'
 - Socrates and Alcibiades

Phaedrus

- watering the wings of the soul



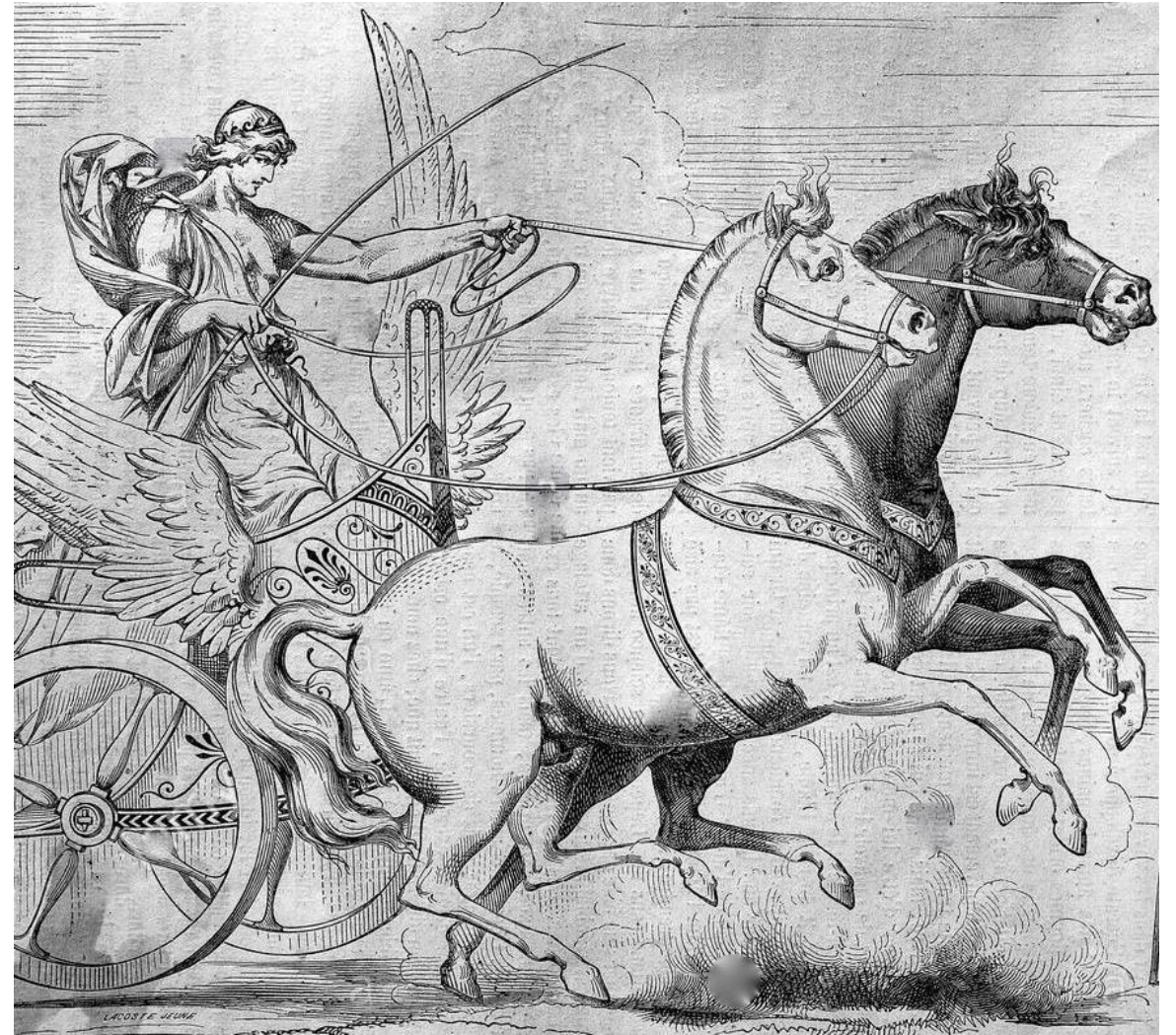
Anselm Feuerbach, *Plato's Symposium (Das Gastmahl des Plato)*, 1869 (Karlsruhe, Kunsthalle)



C.W. Eckersberg, 1813/16 (Thorvaldsens-
museum, Copenhagen)



C. Zahrtmann, 1911 (National Gallery of Denmark,
Copenhagen)



Phaedrus: erotic desire and beauty nourishing
the regrowth of the wings of the soul