



The Philosopher's Banquet: Plutarch's Table Talk in the Intellectual Culture of the Roman Empire

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The Philosopher's Banquet is the first sustained study of Plutarch's *Table Talk*, a Greek prose text which is a combination of philosophical dialogue (in the style of Plato's *Symposium*) and miscellany. The form of *Table Talk* was imitated by several later Greek and Roman imperial authors (such as Aulus Gellius, Athenaeus, and Macrobius), making it a vital part of the early Roman Empire's literary and cultural history. Similarly, the great variety of its contents links it with a broader imperial cultural trend, that of systematizing knowledge, which features increasingly prominently as a subject of scholarly study in both classics and the history of science. The contributors to *The Philosopher's Banquet* offer a range of methodologically innovative and sophisticated readings of *Table Talk*'s literary form, themes, cultural background, and influence.

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