

## In Memoriam: Tomás Calvo Martínez (1942-2023)

Address given at the solemn Opening Session of the International Plato Society XVI Symposium Platonicum, held at the Universidad Complutense de Madrid, May 5, 2025, to honour the memory of Professor Tomás Calvo Martínez.

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It is a wonderful honour for me as a student of Tomás Calvo Martínez to be able to say a few words in honour of a distinguished professor and scholar. Firstly, I would want to express my gratitude to Beatriz Bossi for providing me with this chance. When I first met Tomás Calvo as a student in 1977, he had just arrived in Granada from his stay at Harvard University's Center for Hellenic Studies. He was appointed to publish the General Introduction to the translation into Spanish of the *Complete Works of Aristotle*. I would say that one of his mayor achievements was his participation in this *magnus opus*, translating first Aristotle's *De anima* and years later the *Metaphysics*, which has been considered a great contribution to the study of Greek philosophy in Spanish. He wrote books on Plato and the Sophists and on Aristotle and Aristotelism, and many articles and chapters on the Presocratics and Greek Philosophy. In 1992, at the III Symposium Platonicum held in Bristol, he was appointed as President of the International Plato Society, so he organized the IV Symposium Platonicum held in Granada in 1995. His work as a professor was not restricted to his academic activities, initially at the Universities of Granada and later at the University Complutense of Madrid, but at numerous other universities where he was invited to give lectures and courses. As the founder of the Sociedad Ibérica de Filosofía Griega, he promoted ancient philosophy

studies throughout the entire academic community of Spain and Portugal. When Socrates in the *Republic* wants to define the most characteristic feature of the philosopher, he says that he is a lover of wisdom, not of one kind of wisdom, but a lover of all wisdom. I remember this because Tomas Calvo's "insatiable appetite" of wisdom in the realm of philosophy was not only focused in ancient philosophy, but he gave lectures and courses, wrote books and chapters on P. Ricouer, K.O. Apel, N.Quine and J. Ortega y Gasset among many other philosophers, and I would like to remember that his *History of Philosophy* (written with J.M.Navarro) was once the best seller handbook of philosophy known in all the Spanish departments of philosophy in high schools. Finally, I would like to praise his moral and intellectual attributes even more than his scholarly contributions, which explains why so many pupils and disciples have declared a profound and sincere sense of affection and admiration for him.