

Table of Contents

I	Introduction	11
II	Plato's Doctrine on Beauty – The Longing for the Eternal	27
1.	The Notion of Beauty	27
2.	The Idea of Beauty as the Cause of All Beauty	35
3.	Beauty, the Good and the Beneficial	41
a)	The Beneficial	41
b)	The Good	43
4.	The Desirous and Erotic Pursuit of the Idea of Beauty	51
a)	Pleasure and Desire	51
b)	Eros	53
5.	The Apprehension of the Idea of Beauty	59
6.	Summary	66
III	Beauty in Aristotle's Writings and in Early Neoplatonism	67
1.	Aristotle – The 'End' of Ideology	67
a)	The Notion of Beauty	67
b)	Beauty and Goodness	70
c)	The Functional Aspect	75
d)	Pleasure and Desire	77
e)	Art	80
f)	Summary	81
2.	Plotinus – The Return Inwards	82
a)	The Notion of Beauty	82
b)	The One as the Cause of Beauty	86
c)	Art	89
d)	The Hyper-Beautiful Good	90

e) Eros, the Beautiful Soul and Its Need for Καθαροις	93
f) Man's Fulfillment – Θεοπλα	97
g) Summary	99
3. Augustine – Formation, Deformation, Reformation	100
a) The Notion of Beauty	100
b) God-Made and Man-Made Beauty	103
c) The Way to Happiness and the Beatific Vision	105
d) Summary	108
4. Proclus – The Love-Chain	109
IV Beauty According to Pseudo-Dionysius the Areopagite – The Non-Cognitive Unification with the Beautiful-and-Good	115
1. The Notion of Beauty	115
2. The Cause of Beauty and What Beauty Causes	124
3. The Beautiful-and-Good	131
4. Modes of Apprehending Divine Beauty	136
a) Cognition	136
b) Eros	148
5. Perception of Divine Beauty Through Non-Perception	153
6. Summary	160
V The Doctrine on Beauty in Albert the Great – The Implicit Aspiration of the Beautiful	161
1. The Notion of Beauty	161
2. The Univocal Cause of Beauty	166
3. The Good as the Cause of Causes	174
4. The Transcendentals	180
5. The Striving for One's Goal	183
a) Desire	185
b) Amor	187
c) Cognition	191
d) Contemplative Happiness	200
6. Cognitio, Unio and Visio	201
7. Summary	208

VI	Beauty in the Teaching of Thomas Aquinas – The Repose of Desire in Cognition	210
1.	The Notion of Beauty	210
2.	Beauty as a Principle of Existing	226
3.	Art	233
4.	The Good	235
5.	The Transcendentals	239
6.	Beauty as the Goal of the Intellect and the Will	243
a)	Willful Cognition	243
b)	Love	250
7.	The Apprehension of God's Beautiful Essence	252
8.	Summary	267
VII	The Doctrine on Beauty According to Nicholas of Cusa – The Iudex Pulchritudinis	269
1.	The Notion of Beauty	269
2.	Beauty as the Explication of the Inexplicable	275
3.	The Good and the Beautiful	293
4.	The Transcendentals	297
5.	Art	300
6.	Surpassing Earthly Beauty	303
a)	Desire	303
b)	Cognition	306
c)	Love	323
7.	The Three Viae and the Kingdom of Beauty	329
8.	Summary	349
VIII	Conclusion	351
	Bibliography	370