



Shakespeare and the Fire of Love

By Jill Line

Shepherd-Walwyn (Publishers) Ltd, United Kingdom, 2004. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 208 x 145 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book. From women s eyes this doctrine I derive: They are the ground, the books, the academes, From whence doth spring the true Promethean fire These lines, spoken by Berowne in Love s Labour s Lost, embody all the passions of the early stages of love but, as so often with Shakespeare, he seems to be hinting at something more. What is the doctrine he derives from women s eyes? What is it women s eyes convey? What is the true Promethean fire? The answers to these questions lie in the Christian-Platonic philosophy of love which permeates all Shakespeare s plays and poems. Although Christian-Platonism, or the new learning as it was known in his time, has long been associated with the poetry of many of his contemporaries, its relationship to Shakespeare s work is not so well known. This perennial philosophy has come down through a long line of teachers, including Hermes Trismegistus, Pythagoras, Plato and Plotinus. The philosopher of this tradition, whom Shakespeare most clearly reflects, was the scholar-priest Marsilio Ficino, who lived in Florence a hundred years before...



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