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The Logos of Heraclitus

By Eva Brann



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“In this extraordinary meditation, Eva Brann takes us to the fierce core of Heraclitus's vision and shows us the music of his language. The thought and beautiful prose in *The Logos of Heraclitus* are a delight.”—Barry Mazur, Harvard University

“An engaged solitary, an inward-turned observer of the world, inventor of the first of philosophical genres, the thought-compacted aphorism,” “teasingly obscure in reputation, but hard-hittingly clear in fact,” “now tersely mordant, now generously humane.”

Thus Eva Brann introduces Heraclitus—in her view, the West’s first philosopher.

The collected work of Heraclitus comprises 131 passages. Eva Brann sets out to understand Heraclitus as he is found in these passages and particularly in his key word, Logos, the order that is the cosmos.

“Whoever is captivated by the revelatory riddlings and brilliant obscurities of what remains of Heraclitus has to begin anew—accepting help, to be sure, from previous readings—in a spirit of receptivity and reserve. But essentially everyone must pester the supposed obscurantist until he opens up. Heraclitus is no less and no more pregnantly dark than an oracle...The upshot is that no interpretation has prevailed; every question is wide open.”

Eva Brann is a member of the senior faculty at St. John's College in Annapolis, Maryland, where she has taught for fifty-seven years. She is a recipient of the National Humanities Medal. Her other books include *Then and Now*, *Un-Willing*, *Feeling Our Feelings*, *Homage to Americans*, *Open Secrets / Inward Prospects*, *The Music of the Republic*, and *Homeric Moments* (all published by Paul Dry Books).



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Editorial Review

Review

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