## A Thinking Person's Guide to

# LOVE



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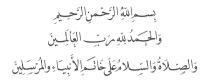
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SOCRATES: But I have no time for such things [Greek myths]; and the reason, my friend, is this. I am still unable, as the Delphic inscription orders, to *know myself*; and it really seems to me ridiculous to look into other things before I have understood that. This is why I do not concern myself with them. I accept what is generally believed, and, as I was just saying, I do not look into them but into my own self: am I a beast more complicated and savage than Typhon [a multiform monster with a hundred heads] or am I a tamer, simpler animal with a share in a divine and gentle nature? (Plato, *Phaedrus*, in *Plato*, *Complete Works*, trans. Alexander Nehamas and Paul Woodruff, Hackett Publishing, Indianapolis, 1997, 229e-230a)

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### A Thinking Person's Guides



By the grace of God, this is the seventh book in the *A Thinking Person's Guides* and *A Tentative Guides* series. This series aims to provide brief, clear philosophical primers about a number of important topics that concern every human being.

Each book in the series aims to present a complete picture of each topic it addresses. Most people *are not* actually 'dummies' and 'idiots', and should not be content to be treated as such. Most people *need to know* more than what is found in the various 'dummies' and 'idiots' guides. On the other hand, people do not have time to do all the reading themselves—and in fact it takes years to do so, and usually require a professional academic guide to help them through the topic—so this series aims to do all the academic and historical work for them. All that the reader is required to do is to be willing to *think objectively* a bit: to be a 'thinking person', precisely. Finally, in order to be accessible to everyone, the works contain no footnotes or endnotes and as little technical jargon as possible.