

Some of the challenges and hallmarks of our age include greed, violence and environmental degradation. How can we most effectively challenge and overcome them?

H. P. Blavatsky states in her introduction to *Isis Unveiled* that her work is a plea to recognize the Hermetic philosophy: "... the anciently universal Wisdom Religion, as the only possible key to the Absolute in science and theology." (*Isis Unveiled*, Preface, p. vii)

That philosophy included the works of Plato. H. P. B. goes on to say only a few pages later: "It is the Platonic philosophy that can alone afford us the middle ground [between science and religion]. (*Ibid.*, p. xi) Or as the transcendentalist, Ralph Waldo Emerson but it: "Out of Plato come all things that are still written and debated among men of thought." (*Representative Men*)



Plato

Plato was an idealist who believed that ideas rule the world. That sentiment has been echoed more recently by the hard-headed economic theorist, John Maynard Keynes when he concluded his *General Theory of Employment, Interest and Money* with these words: "I am sure that the power of vested interests is vastly exaggerated compared with the gradual encroachment of ideas Soon or late, it is ideas, not vested interests, which are dangerous for good or evil." (Harbinger, 1935 (1964), pp. 383-4)