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# End of Week 2

OK, we’ve come to the end of week two now, so we’ll be leaving those discussions behind for now. Not that we won’t ever refer to those topics again, but they just won’t be our central focus. We’ll be moving on now to The Phaedrus.

We actually started out fairly easy in the first two weeks of the course, with dialogues that are somewhat easier to understand. Those dialogues were written when Plato was younger, probably in his early 30s, and are not nearly as complex or insightful as the middle dialogues written when his mind and soul were richer and more developed.

So it usually takes more readings to catch on to The Phaedrus and other middle dialogues (like The Republic) than it does the early dialogues. It's like the difference between listening to AM rock and classical music. You might be able to pretty much "get" a piece of AM rock by hearing it 2-3 times, but you probably will not fully "get" a piece of classical music even after hearing it 30-40 times. There's just a lot more to classical music, more nuance, more intricacy, more complexity, more depth, maybe even more soul.

The Phaedrus too has lots more soul in it than those simpler early dialogues. Those early dialogues are almost like a piece of music that has only two or three instruments in it, compared to a piece of music played by a full orchestra. The first piece of music is simpler and much easier to follow. Children could probably follow it, with a little help. The orchestral piece takes a lot more experience with music to understand it, but it also appeals more to a soul that has lived more, experienced more, and understood the nuances of life more.

If not this time reading it through, then maybe the second time through, you may find yourself smiling, maybe even chuckling at some of the things Socrates says in The Phaedrus. And you'll probably also just be amazed at some of the ideas in there: "Wow! That is so right on!" I've heard students say of some ideas in that third speech.