



# **Mortal Imitations of Divine Life: The Nature of the Soul in Aristotle's De Anima (Rereading Ancient Philosophy)**

*Eli Diamond*

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In *Mortal Imitations of Divine Life*, Diamond offers an interpretation of *De Anima*, which explains how and why Aristotle places souls in a hierarchy of value. Aristotle's central intention in *De Anima* is to discover the nature and essence of soul—the principle of living beings. He does so by identifying the common structures underlying every living activity, whether it be eating, perceiving, thinking, or moving through space. As Diamond demonstrates through close readings of *De Anima*, the nature of the soul is most clearly seen in its divine life, while the embodied soul's other activities are progressively clear approximations of this principle. This interpretation shows how Aristotle's psychology and biology cannot be properly understood apart from his theological conception of God as life, and offers a new explanation of *De Anima*'s unity of purpose and structure.

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