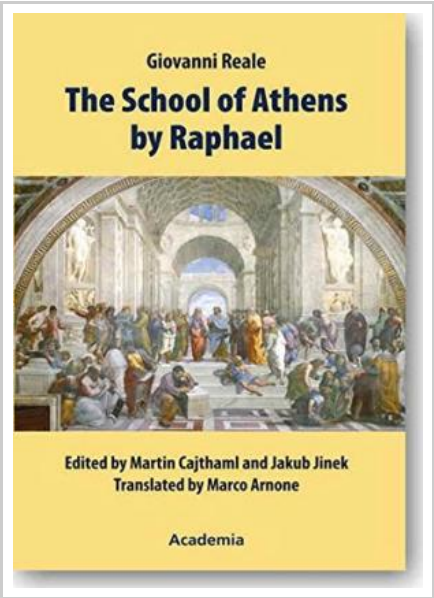


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The Schools of Athens by Raphael

By Martin Cajthaml

Academia Verlag Gmbh Apr 2008, 2008. Buch. Book Condition: Neu. 21x14.8x cm. Neuware - In his Journey to Italy Goethe writes that one can not look at great paintings like the School of Athens only as a whole, since 'the pleasure derived from the first impression is incomplete; only when one has seen and studied every detail, slowly and part by part, the enjoyment is complete'. In this book Giovanni Reale aims at achieving exactly this, namely studying and describing Rafael's fresco slowly and part by part, with the full reproduction of the cartone. This is the only way to achieve Goethe's complete enjoyment. Reale shows how Rafael proceeds according to a perfectly Platonic scheme, and follows it with the utmost precision. The general scheme (as pointed out by Winner) is the one presented by Plato in book VII of the Republic, where he states that it is necessary to start from those disciplines that 'bring the soul from becoming to being', that is from the mathematical sciences, and through them reach the highest level of knowledge, that brings to the perception of the Absolute. In the lower side of the School of Athens are represented the mathematical sciences: on...

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