

## **Initiation into the Constitution of Polis through Religion ? Politeia 327A - 328 B**

Mostafa Younesie, Tarbiat Modares University-Tehran

One of the enigmatic but leading and far-reaching features of the opening lines of Politeia introduction is Socrates' narration of a Goddess [Bendis] and her festival [Bendideia] in Piraeus. The initial position of this opening is very thought- stimulating and relatively strange and so it needs justification.

In this framework it seems necessary to do an investigation into this initial background of a text that is mainly about the structure and construction of polis. According to the common and general knowledge Bendis is a Thracian goddess of the moon and hunt whom the Greeks identified with Artemis. According to this simple and initial information it is a foreign religion and cult therefore it should be accepted and integrated (in the course of a process with different and diverse means) into the Greek. Thus with cautious we can say that is somehow appropriated for the polis and is a polis-friendly religion and with this status it can function as the entrance to the polis. Therefore religion is for polis and not vice versa although the opening of the text is with religion but it is not religion for religion. And this point leads to the basic and permanent question about the relation of the *hiera* and *hosia* and the role of hiera for the set of polis n Politeia.