

CURTIS L. HANCOCK*

**PLOTINUS' ADOPTION OF ARISTOTLE'S
DOCTRINE OF ACT (*ENERGEIA*)**

SUMMARY

Plotinus demonstrated his commitment to *energeia* by having devoted an entire treatise to the *energeia/dynamis* distinction, which seems to be important to Plotinus' philosophical project as a whole. The article attempts to demonstrate that *energeia*, which is synonymous with contemplation (*noēsis*) and being (*ousia, eidos, to on, noēton*), should be translated in various ways out of respect for the fact that there are different levels of contemplation and being and that there are different ways of looking at being. It also maintains that Plotinus' handling of *energeia* is generally a reaction, in both positive and negative ways, to the philosophies of Plato and Aristotle. On account of delivered commentary on *Enneads* II, 5 (25) and VI, 2 (43), conjoined to its conclusions, the article strives for showing that Plotinus' doctrine of *energeia/dynamis* unlocks his entire philosophy.

KEYWORDS: Plotinus, Plato, Aristotle, contemplation, being, act, achieved perfection, actualization, activity.

*Dr. Curtis L. Hancock – Rockhurst Jesuit University, Kansas City, USA; e-mail: curtis.hancock@rockhurst.edu