

## GUIDELINES

TELOS is a web portal created in 2021 by the philosophers' association “Peripatos”. It is an intellectually-oriented polemical and educational web magazine that unites Latvian conservative thinkers, who thus far have not had their own online space in which to share, debate, and discuss ideas.

Being socially conservative, TELOS is not neutral in its contemplation and does not provide an agora for every viewpoint. It evaluates and judges from a certain metaphysical, ethical and, accordingly, political position. The creators of the portal believe in a stable, fundamentally unchanging, objective nature of things and a moral order, which is available to rational beings who thirst for knowledge. The portal unites Latvian Platonists, Aristotelians, Thomists, Kantians, moral realists of all schools, and orthodox and confessionally minded Christians. These great Western intellectual traditions are important, not because they are “Western” and therefore ours. They are important because they hold more truth and are more convincing than almost anything new in the West since the end of the Enlightenment, especially during the 20th and 21st centuries. We believe that by rejecting the doctrine of human nature so well articulated by the ancient Greeks, and by rejecting the doctrine of the divine origin of moral law, all moral obligations and prohibitions lose their justification. If there is no foundation in natural law, in the use of common sense, and in a supernatural source that rules as legislator; conservatism is an empty sound and has nothing to “conserve” or preserve.

The Ionian column at the top of the web page symbolises ancient Athens as the root of the teaching of natural law. The dove, in turn, symbolises Jerusalem as the birthplace of Christianity and the Holy Spirit. The synthesis of both of these principles and roots is Western civilisation, which is experiencing a decline due to self-forgetfulness and self-contempt. Combining these principles and speaking in the words of Socrates and King Solomon, we say that without virtue, there will be no happiness, and without fear of God, there will be no wisdom. The word between the two symbols, TELOS in ancient Greek, means ‘goal’, ‘fulfilment’ or ‘completion’. From this word comes “teleology”, which is a teaching of the purposes of things and beings. It is impossible to search for and find a person's goal without accepting that, just as the eye has a function or purpose – enabling us to see, so too does that most special tool of man: his mind. The purpose of the mind is truth. Acknowledging the truth and the correct use of the mind makes a person rational and decent and his or her life – meaningful and good. By offering a platform for thinkers and observers who care about the true description of things and true judgments, TELOS intends to give conservatism – which is so frequently invoked in Latvia – a clear goal and a path to perfection.

The web portal has five sections: Guidelines, Outlines, Appraisals, Stories and Conversations. We write about everything that creates a civilisation – about people; texts; events; public affairs; works of art; and individual, private experiences. In the section named Appraisal we want to restore the tradition of the ancient encomium. The appraisal of a person, a book, a film, a speech, or an event may include, according to ancient tradition, an indirect rebuke to what is not true and good, or only half-made. Outlines are the didactic section of the portal. Their didactic nature can be expressed, for example, in book reviews or analyses of current events. Stories, on the other hand,

are a place for personal experiences. In the Conversations section, we will publish interviews and podcasts. Addressing ourselves to the authors – maybe also you – we invite you to write as if you were writing a letter to an intelligent like-minded person or friend. Such a letter is not a report or a lecture – it presents the theory only insofar as is necessary to understand the thought and message. Write as if you were writing not just to someone to someone whom you respect and who you know will read you carefully, but also to someone who will require you to substantiate what you want to convey. The preferred length of the article is 8,000–12,000 characters with spaces, but we can also publish longer texts. We are very much looking forward to new authors, even people who have no experience with writing. We are ready to help you. We reward the texts accepted for publication – not too much, but we reward. We are also happy to publish anonymous texts and those signed under a pseudonym. This is not an academic publication site, so the footnotes and bibliography should appear only when absolutely necessary.

The portal is created with the zeal of volunteers. We are looking for supporters, and we gratefully accept donations:

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