

Brill, S. (2016) “Autochthony, Sexual Reproduction and Political Life in the *Statesman* Myth”, in J. Sallis (ed), *Plato’s Statesman: Dialectics, Myth, Politics*, State University of New York Press, 33-50.

This chapter investigates the relationship between how human beings come to be and the kind of political animal they are that Plato suggests in the myth of the *Statesman*. While the general scholarly tendency has been to focus on the role of *technē* in creating a recognizably human political environment, I argue that the specific characterization of sexual reproduction in the myth requires us to consider the nature of self-rule beyond the attempts at self-creation embodied in the practice of *technē*. Whatever self-rule means for Plato, if the *Statesman* is any indication, it must include acknowledgement that human political life is grounded in the fact that humans are born from others like themselves.