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Why does the intellect see wisdom?  
A Platonic figure of thought in *De sapientia*  
of Nicholas of Cusa

*Abstract*

*This study focuses on controversies in the understanding of wisdom, which can be found in Nicholas of Cusa's contacts with the Erfurt Carthusians in the middle of the fifteenth century after his visit to Erfurt in 1451. Nicholas of Cusa presented his rationalistic theory of wisdom in his De Idiota dialogues written in the summer of 1450 while preparing for a diplomatic journey to Germany. In contrast to the humanistically oriented Austrian Carthusian monk Nicholas Kempf and the Erfurt Carthusians, who expressed their affective and irrational view of wisdom in their writings on mystical theology, Nicholas of Cusa apparently relied in his theory of wisdom mainly on Plato's dialogues.*