Wednesday Reflection 2b

**Origins and What Exists**

**Read together in class:** A PROSECUTOR SEEKS REDEMPTION. CAN WE ALLOW PRISONERS THE SAME?

<https://theintercept.com/2015/03/24/whogetsredemption/>

Group Questions for Consideration:

1. Is there a relationship between our conception of creation and our idea/s of justice?
2. Are those convicted of a crime, even a violent crime, fundamentally different from other humans?
3. Is human potential fixed?
4. What constitutes “value” when we consider rehabilitation of those who have committed a serious crime?
5. What must we sacrifice collectively as a society to maintain our present version of retributive/punitive justice?
6. Can a person remake their life after a major derailment?
7. Who or what is entitled to be redeemed? How do we know?
8. If we are not certain where we come from, how do we find meaning moving forward?
9. If we desire mercy and generosity for ourselves, should we be prepared to offer it to others? Why?
10. If we have incarcerated someone for 30 years who committed a crime at the age of 18, who are we punishing?
11. What do you believe today that you did not believe 10 years ago? Do you think your beliefs will change in the next 10 years? Are you the same person today as you were ten years ago or as you will be 10 years from now?
12. Does a creation story have to be “true” to shed light on our current circumstances?

Your group task (20ish minutes):

1. In your group conversation, your goal is to try to apply aspects of each origin story we have examined to at least 3 questions above:
   * Plato’s “craftsman” between physical world and world of Forms
   * Jainism’s non-created universe
   * The Big Bang Theory

You can also draw from the previous week’s origin narratives:

* The *Enuma Elish* of ancient Babylon [Marduk’s sacrifice of the dragon Goddess Tiamat]
* the 3 narratives of creation in the *Ṛg Veda* (the Creation Hymn of Uncertainty, the Golden Embryo, and the sacrifice of the Cosmic Being [called Puruṣa Sūkta])

1. Be prepared to present 1 question to the main class (other than question #12) supported by unique insights from at least 3 creation stories.