

## Monday Summary Worksheet- Week Two

### 1.A Summary of Plato's Timaeus (Jowett translation 4th edition 1953)

a.

Newton, Trevor. "A summary of Plato's Timaeus (Jowett translation 4th edition 1953)." *Notes on Money, Markets, and Economics*, 27 Feb, 2017, <http://trevornewton.com/blog.php?id=11&title=A-summary-of-Platos-Timaeus->.

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b. In Plato's Timaeus, the main character Timaeus attempts to explain Earth and human beings' creation by first using the logic that everything that exists has to exist for a reason which means that there had to be a previous cause that brought a certain thing into existence. Thus, the only plausible cause for the creation of Earth and its beings has to be an all good and all knowing creator who transformed the Earth from chaos into order and attempted to make this world a perfect model, after which he made living creatures to inhabit the Earth by uniting the world's body with its soul. The reason this creator is not omnipotent is because he is constrained by necessity, or subject to the current materials at hand.

c.

- i. "Timaeus then describes a geocentric model (36d) where the creator, after fashioning the world, united its body with its soul, making it a living creature" (Newton).
- ii. "Necessity is subordinate to Mind. The concept of Necessity is important to Timaeus' argument, because the creator is not omnipotent, and is subject to the limitations of the working materials at hand." (Newton).

d. Question: Are the Gods just there to follow the creator's instructions, in that case, who exactly are the mortals supposed to worship?

### 2. The Big Bang- an eyewitness account

a.

Laursen, Peter. "The Big Bang-an eyewitness account." *Phys.org*, 25 Oct, 2018, <https://phys.org/news/2018-10-big-bangan-eyewitness-account.html>

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b. Through modern technology and studying how the universe has expanded over time, it has become possible to view the conditions of this constantly expanding universe one second after the Big Bang, since light does not travel infinitely fast so when observing a

galaxy a million light years away, one is actually looking that much back in time. In the first split seconds of the big bang, everything was extremely dense and packed into a space smaller than a subatomic particle, and then within the next few seconds, it expanded and forces such as gravity, electromagnetic, and the ‘weak’ and ‘strong’ forces along with all the stars and the galaxies.

- c.
  - i. “At this time, the "weak" force is also created. This means that all four forces of the universe are now established, the other three being the electromagnetic force, gravity, and the "strong" force” (Laursen).
  - ii. “But instead, there exist ever-so-small lumps that weigh a tiny bit more than their surroundings and can therefore pull on a little more matter. This allows them to grow and eventually form the structure in the universe that turns into galaxies, stars, planets, and ultimately, us” (Laursen).
- d. What exactly surrounded the universe outside of the Big Bang while it was expanding?

### 3. Jainism and Non Creationism

a.

Contributors, Wikipedia. “Jainism and non-creationism.” *Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia*, 25 Mar, 2020, [https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Special:CiteThisPage&page=Jainism\\_and\\_non-creationism&id=947383977&wpFormIdentifier=titleform](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Special:CiteThisPage&page=Jainism_and_non-creationism&id=947383977&wpFormIdentifier=titleform)

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- b. One of the core values of Jainism is a belief in non-creationism which means that factors of life such as time, space, and one’s soul have always existed. The world is governed by universal laws of nature and since everything is an effect that comes from a cause, it would not be possible for an immaterial entity like God to create a material universe. According to Jainism, the world is made up of a total of six substances which include the living substances, the non-living substances, matter, motion, space, and time.
- c.
  - i. “The Jain theory of causation holds that a cause and its effect are always identical in nature and hence a conscious and immaterial entity like God cannot create a material entity like the universe” (Contributors).
  - ii. “According to Jainism, time is beginningless and eternal. The cosmic wheel of time rotates ceaselessly” (Contributors).
- d. How can current day Jains simultaneously believe in this and in modern science which states that the world is infact a certain number of years old?

## Week Two: Monday Summary Worksheet

### 1st Reading

a.

Newton, Trevor. "A Summary of Plato's Timaeus (Jowett translation 4th Edition 1953)." *Notes*

*on Money, Markets, and Economics*. 27 February 2017, [http://trevornewton.com/blog.php](http://trevornewton.com/blog.php?id=11&title=A-summary-of-Platos-Timaeus-) 

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b.

Trevor Newton's blog entry concerning Plato's Timaeus offers a complex look at the philosopher's (Plato's) own thoughts on the creation of the world and mankind. Newton examines Plato's view towards creation itself--that everything which is created must necessarily have a cause or creator. This view also presumes the cause must be intelligent in order to craft a perfect world. Duality also seems to play a significant role in Plato's understanding of creation since he uses Timaeus to weave together his idea of the Forms and Particulars, two concepts of knowledge which are directly opposed. Creating order out of disorder then, is another major theme of the dialogue.

c.

"Forms can only be known by way of the intellect, whereas Particulars are known through our physical senses. Timaeus' discourse is a product of both types of knowledge." (Newton)

"Timaeus' universe is not caused out of nothingness, but rather gets transformed from chaos into order."(Newton)

d.

Do Plato's Forms and Particulars stand as philosophical precursors to Rationalism and Empiricism?

### 2nd Reading

a.

Laursen, Peter. "The Big Bang—an eyewitness account." *Phys.org*. 25 October 2018, <https://phys.org/news/2018-10-big-bangan-eyewitness-account.html>

b.

Studying the universe's evolution enables us to retrace our steps (thanks to the speed of light), depicting what the universe looked in the moments immediately following the Big Bang. This event gave birth to the very concepts modern physics depends on—gravity and mass among them. The rapid expansion of the seemingly infinite universe takes place in less than half an hour and relies on the presence of dark matter and antiparticles to stabilize and decelerate.

c.

"Because light does not travel infinitely fast, we see everything as it was in the past. When you check your phone, you look a nanosecond back in time, since that is how long it took the light particles to travel 30 centimetres" (Laursen).

"We assume, though we are not certain, that the universe outside our little bubble goes on forever. If that is true, then it was "born" infinitely large. Although it actually makes physical sense to talk about an infinitely large universe that grows or shrinks, it is undoubtedly hard to visualise" (Laursen).

d.

How can science explain the Big Bang's apparent creation of order from disorder?

### 3rd Reading

a.

"Jainism and non-creationism." *Wikipedia*, 25 March 2020, [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jainism\\_and\\_non-creationism](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jainism_and_non-creationism)

b.

Jainism, as a philosophy and as a religion, rejects the notion of a creator deity like God. Instead, it promotes a cyclical understanding of time which circumvents the problem of a creator; moreover, causation and effect are identical in nature. Individual souls exist, have always existed, and always will exist though it experiences both birth and death. On morality, Jainism holds that virtuous and ethical behavior is possible without a creator God.

c.

“The Jain theory of causation holds that a cause and its effect are always identical in nature and hence a conscious and immaterial entity like God cannot create a material entity like the universe” (Wikipedia).

“According to Jainism, time is beginningless and eternal. The cosmic wheel of time rotates ceaselessly.<sup>[4]</sup> This cyclic nature eliminates the need for a creator, destroyer or external deity to maintain the universe” (Wikipedia).

d.

How does the Jain belief that the universe has always existed relate to Plato’s contention that something cannot be created out of nothing?

## Monday Summaries, Week 2

a.

Newton, Trevor. "A Summary of Plato's Timaeus (Jowett Translation 4th Edition 1943)". *Notes on Money, Markets, and Economics*, 27 Feb. 2017,

<http://trevornewton.com/blog.php?id=11&title=A-summary-of-Platos-Timaeus->

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b. In regards to the existence of a God and the creation of the universe, Plato relays his thoughts on these topics through the arguments of his character, Timaeus. Timaeus believes that the universe is a living, conscious entity that was meant by its creator to portray a perfect eternal model. The creator of this universe was thought by Timaeus to be a craftsman who united already existing elements out of chaos to create this being. The creator was not an omnipotent god that created everything from nothing, but rather a god that transformed chaos into order with elements that already existed.

c. :

"A creator (himself being perfect and good but not omnipotent), because of his own perfection and goodness, brought order to the universe and fashioned it after his own likeness (which in turn must be fashioned after an eternal Form)" (Newton)

"He thus made it a self-sufficient god (34b) with a body and soul, the latter ruling over the former because the soul was created first. The universe, to Timaeus, was constructed as " a single animal comprehending in itself all other animals, mortal and immortal" (Newton)

d. Question: How did the Receptacle come to be if it existed before time?

a.

Laursen, Peter. "The Big Bang- An Eyewitness Account". *PhysOrg*, 25 Oct. 2018,

<https://phys.org/news/2018-10-big-bangan-eyewitness-account.html>

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b. Within this reading, Laursen attempts to describe in great detail what it would be like to experience the Big Bang. Laursen asserts that there are many ways to create a near accurate account of how the Big Bang happened through backwards calculations and experiments that support their theories. Through these experiments, scientists can test, measure, and recreate conditions that have lasted through time to propose an account of what happened.

c.

"In this way, we are actually pretty certain about what happened all the way back to less than a second after the Big Bang. This is because we can not only calculate, but also perform experiments in huge particle accelerators such as CERN, to recreate the conditions that prevailed at that time, and confirm that we're not completely wrong" (Laursen)

“We can measure the density, temperature, and other physical quantities of the universe. Observing the velocity of galaxies tell us that the universe is expanding. If we calculate backwards, we can work out the physical conditions in earlier epochs” (Laursen)

d. Question: How far does the universe extend past the cosmic microwave background?

a.

*Jainism and Non-Creationism*. Wikipedia, 2020,  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jainism\\_and\\_non-creationism](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jainism_and_non-creationism)  
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b. The main assertion of this reading is to introduce key aspects of Jainism and how it conflicts with creationist beliefs. Jainism rejects the belief that there is a creator of the universe, instead believing that an eternal and cosmic wheel of time rotates ceaselessly. The soul is purely master of its own destiny and is the only one to reap its own consequences or achieve liberation without any divine intervention.

c.

“The soul alone chooses its actions and the soul alone reaps its consequences. No god or prophet or angel can interfere in the actions or the destiny of the soul. Furthermore, it is the soul alone who makes the necessary efforts to achieve liberation without any divine grace”  
(Wikipedia)

“The cosmic wheel of time rotates ceaselessly. This cyclic nature eliminates the need for a creator, destroyer or external deity to maintain the universe” (Wikipedia)

d. What is the exact process to become a Siddah?