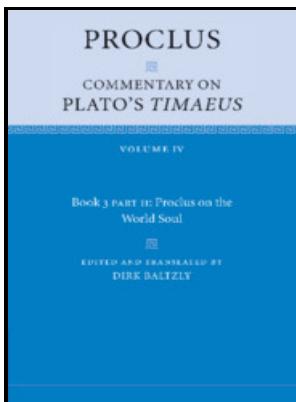


A commentary on Platos Timaeus

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First, let us enquire what we mean by saying that fire is hot ; and about this we may reason from the dividing or cutting power which it exercises on our bodies. Even so, the world is founded upon it.

Plato: The Timaeus

Wherefore the varieties of smell have no name, and they have not many, or definite and simple kinds ; but they are distinguished only painful and pleasant, the one sort irritating and disturbing the whole cavity which is situated between the head and the navel, the other having a soothing influence, and restoring this same region to an agreeable and natural condition. While discussing Timaeus's use of tentative language in his account of his likely story, Proclus explains how he benefits his auditors: For if the listeners will receive the account in accordance with Timaeus's intellect, and Timaeus will organize his entire exposition in accordance with the gods' intellect, then it simply must be the case that the entire conversation will relate to one and the same intellect and intellective process.

Timaeus (dialogue)

The world indeed draws its potential source from a kinetic force, a sort of simultaneous motion between a centripetal and a centrifugal tendency, a whirling force that cannot indefinitely or generally restore more energy than it possesses. For that which includes all other intelligible creatures cannot have a second or companion; in that case there would be need of another living being which would include both, and of which they would be parts, and the likeness would be more truly said to resemble not them, but that other which included them.

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Here, the notion of promise enters the scene: the demiurge guarantees his continuous involvement through a promise.

The commentaries of Proclus on the Timaeus of Plato in five books; containing a treasury of Pythagoric and Platonic physiology. Translated from the Greek by Thomas Taylor : Proclus, ca. 410

The good points about this work should be noted. The most important of the affections which concern the whole body remains to be considered — that is, the cause of pleasure and pain in the perceptions of which I have been speaking, and in all other things which are perceived by sense through the parts of the body, and have both pains and pleasures attendant on them

Creation from Primordial Matter: Did Rashi Read Plato's Timaeus?

Before relating his story, Critias provides some background regarding its transmission. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1995.

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