

Unit 8 - Classwork 3: The Eleatic School of Philosophy

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In order to answer the following question, read pages 36—45 in Unit 8.

1. According to Parmenides, a goddess told him about two different roads.
 - (i) According to his goddess, what were those paths?
(Give both names for each road.)
 - _____
 - _____
 - (ii) According to his goddess, which road leads to the conclusion that only one thing exists?
 - (iii) According to his goddess, which road leads to the conclusion that nothing whatsoever can change or move in any way at all?
 - (iv) According to his goddess, which path leads to the conclusion that multiple things exist?
 - (v) According to his goddess, which path leads to the conclusion that things can move or change?
2. According to the goddess, Justice (Δίκη) made it impossible *not only* for something to *begin* to exist *but also* for something to *cease* to exist.
 - (i) According to the goddess, how has Justice (Δίκη) made it impossible for something to *begin* to exist?
 - (ii) According to the goddess, how has Justice (Δίκη) made it impossible for something to *cease* to exist?

3. Parmenides believed that, even though our senses tell us that things can move and change, reason tells us that nothing whatsoever can change or move in any way at all.
 - (i) To help explain how nothing whatsoever can change or move in any way at all, Parmenides used a clever thought experiment known as the *Achilles paradox*. According to him, if a tortoise were to be given a head start, then Achilles could never outrun the tortoise. Why did Parmenides think so?
 - (ii) To help explain how nothing whatsoever can change or move in any way at all, Zeno of Elea used a thought experiment known as the *dichotomy paradox*. Why did he think that a runner could never run from the starting line to the finish line?
 - (iii) To help explain how nothing whatsoever can change or move in any way at all, Zeno of Elea used a thought experiment known as the moving-arrow paradox. Why did he think that it's logically impossible for an archer's arrow to fly through the air (from an archer's bow to the archer's target)?
 - (iv) With his stadium (or moving rows) paradox, what does Zeno conclude about moving from one point to another?

4. Parmenides and Zeno believed that, even though our senses tell us that things can move and change, reason tells us that nothing whatsoever can change or move in any way at all.

(i) According to Zeno, if *multiple* things exist, then why can't only two things exist?

(ii) According to Zeno, if *multiple* things exist, then how many things must exist?

(iii) According to Zeno, if something can be divided into different parts, then why would it be *endlessly* divisible into an *unlimited* number of different parts?

(iv) According to Zeno, why can't something have an unlimited number of parts?

5. According to Parmenides and Zeno, everything is nowhere at all.

(i) Why did Parmenides think that nothing whatsoever is anywhere at all?

(ii) Why did Zeno think that nothing whatsoever is anywhere at all?