

Chapter 6 - Assignment 1: Pythagoras in Miletus

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In order to answer the following five questions, read pages 1 – 14 in Chapter 6.

1. Anaximander and Pythagoras both had dietary restrictions.

(i) According to Anaximander, why is it wrong for a human being to eat seafood?

(ii) What is *metempsychosis*?

(iii) According to Pythagoras, why is it wrong for a human being to eat fava beans?
Explain your answer.

(iv) According to Pythagoras, why is it wrong for a human being to eat most animals?
Explain your answer.

2. Anaximander and Pythagoras had untraditional opinions about the ethics of diet. Today, various (often untraditional) opinions about the ethics of diet have led people to adopt diets such as a vegetarian diet or a pescatarian diet.

(i) What is a *pescatarian*? (If you don't know what the word "pescatarian" means, you can look up the definition of the word.)

(ii) What is a *vegetarian*? (If you don't know what the word "vegetarian" means, you can look up the definition of the word.)

(iii) Was Anaximander a pescatarian? Why or why not? Explain.

(iv) Was Pythagoras a pescatarian? Why or why not? Explain.

(v) Pythagoras was mostly vegetarian, but why might Pythagoras not have been a strict vegetarian?

3. Pythagoras disagreed with Anaximander (and Anaximenes) about what souls are.

(i) According to Anaximander, are souls *material* things or *immaterial* things? Explain your answer.

(ii) According to Pythagoras, are souls *material* things or *immaterial* things?

(iii) According to Pythagoras, what are the three parts of the *human* soul?

4. According to Pythagoras, the *tetractys* (τετρακτύς) is the harmony that the Sirens sing. Draw the *tetractys*.

5. According to Pythagoras, all things resemble number.

(i) According to Pythagoras, the cardinal virtue of justice resembles which number?

(ii) By thinking that justice is like a square, Pythagoras believed that justice involves equality in some way. What does equality have to do with a square?