

Chapter 8 - Assignment 3: The Pythagorean Empedocles

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In order to answer the following questions, read pages 47—54 in Chapter 8.

1. Pythagoras died, and his son Telauges taught all about *metempsychosis* (μετεμψύχωσις) to Empedocles.
 - (i) According to Pythagoreans, what are the two opposite reasons for why a soul would escape from the cycle of reincarnation?

- (ii) According to Pythagoreans, why are most souls stuck (or trapped) in the cycle of reincarnation?

2. After learning all about the Pythagorean theory of *metempsychosis* (μετεμψύχωση), Empedocles systematized the theory (or developed it into a highly-codified system).

(i) According to Empedocles, if a *bush* dies, then can its soul's *next* incarnation be as an *animal*? Why or why not? Explain.

(ii) According to Empedocles, if a *falcon* or *hawk* dies, then can its soul's very *next* incarnation be as a human? Why or why not? Explain.

(iii) According to Empedocles, *which* kinds of souls become gods?

(iv) According to Empedocles, if a soul becomes a god, then what happens to that soul as a result?

4. According to Empedocles, one universal spirit makes us (the humans) one with the nonhuman animals.

(i) According to Empedocles, should the law make a difference between killing another human being and killing a nonhuman animal? Why or why not? Explain.

(ii) According to Empedocles, what should've happened to the man whom both Pythagoras and Xenophanes saw beating the puppy?

5. Influenced by the Pythagoreans, Empedocles was a vegetarian.

(i) According to Empedocles, why should humans be vegetarians?

(ii) OPINION:- Do you agree with him? Why or why not? Explain.