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The Greek World View

From: Richard Tarnas, *The Passion of the Western Mind*, Ballantine, 1991. pp.3-15

1. Tarnas claims that one of the 'most striking characteristics' of the Greek worldview was its 'sustained, highly diversified tendency to interpret the world in terms of archetypal principles.' Explain.
2. What is the 'partial' though 'profound' shift that contemporary Westerners must make in our approach to reality in order to understand Plato's Doctrine of the Forms?
3. In Platonic thought, why is it important to know what concepts such as 'good' and 'just' mean apart from any specific circumstances?
4. Tarnas claims that Platonic archetypes 'reveal themselves more to the inner perception than to the outer.' Explain.
5. Why, according to Tarnas, did Plato 'maintain a strong distrust of knowledge gained by sense perceptions'?

6. Explain Plato's distinction between 'Being' and 'Becoming,' and how it relates to the Doctrine of the Forms.

7. Tarnas states of Plato's philosophy that, 'Any particular thing in the world is actually a complexly determined appearance.'

8. Tarnas claims that, 'The relation of being to becoming for Plato was directly parallel to the relation of truth to opinion.' Explain.

9. If, as Tarnas states, the 'Forms can be said to be immortal, and therefore similar to gods,' what might this suggest about the role of mythology in Platonic thought?