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The Greek World View: The Evolution of the Greek Mind

From: Richard Tarnas, *The Passion of the Western Mind*, Ballantine, 1991. pp.16-31

1. Tarnas thinks that the Homeric worldview actually implied that the universe was a "cosmos rather than a chaos." What does this mean, and why does Tarnas think this is true?
2. How did the Greek tragedians alter the Homeric worldview? How were they "shapers of [Greek] moral character"?
3. What are the two social factors that Tarnas proposes as possible explanations for what motivated Thales and his successors to pursue philosophy?
4. Tarnas suggests that the earliest philosophers, like Homer, perceived "nature and divinity as yet intertwined." How so?
5. According to Tarnas, what significant developments in Greek thought came about as a result of Parmenides' "purely abstract rational logic"?

