

Name:

Date:

Period:

The Greek World View: Socrates

From: Richard Tarnas, *The Passion of the Western Mind*, Ballantine, 1991. pp.31-40.

1. Why is it difficult to extricate the 'historical Socrates' from the Platonic dialogues, and equally difficult to project the thought of Plato into the 'literary Socrates'?
2. How does the thought of Socrates represent a synthesis of the abstract metaphysics of the Ionians and the humanism of the Sophists?
3. How does the thought of Socrates represent a synthesis of the Homeric/poetic worldview of Greek mythology and the naturalistic rationalism of Pre-Socratic Greek philosophy?
4. What is the importance of the soul in Socrates' philosophy?
5. It has been said of Socrates that he considered ignorance the only sin. Tarnas more positively states that, for Socrates, 'virtue is knowledge.' Explain what this means, and relate it to how Socrates understood happiness.

