

Ondřej Krása, *Causes of the Creation of the World in Plato's Timaeus*

Abstract of the Thesis

The aim of the thesis is to explain the causes of the creation of the world in Plato's *Timaeus*.

The causes of the creation of the world are manifold. The Demiurge created the world according to an eternal paradigm. The paradigm of the world is an intelligible animal that encompasses everything that is eternal. The Demiurge is the best of eternal beings and created the world as an image of the entirety of eternal beings. What is then the relationship between the Demiurge, who is reason, and the entirety of eternal beings, that reason can comprehend? *Timaeus* characterizes the eternal being as having no other relationships than those towards itself. On the contrary, the Demiurge is a being that has constitutive relationships towards the world. The entirety of being that consists of both the Demiurge and that, which is in itself, is therefore a being in which reason relates self-contained relationships of that, which reason can comprehend, towards something else, namely becoming.

The world was created in a receptacle as an embodied soul. Each body is a regular geometrical figure with no "matter" inside. Bodies are both in space and they are modifications of space. Souls are in space as well, but their being in space is very different from being of bodies. The soul reflects other forms of beings in speech, and it allows other souls and bodies to be at the same place where it is.

The Demiurge created the world by way of shaping pre-cosmic becoming and by way of animating bodies with rational souls. Reason, in the form of the Demiurge and in the form of rational speech of the soul, encounters different forms of corporeality. These forms of corporeality are forms of necessity. Necessity is not an independent cause inflicting imperfection on the likeness of the world to its intelligible model. It is itself a likeness of the paradigm that reason makes more similar.

The world imitates intelligible structures in the sphere of becoming. The Demiurge imitates the entirety of the intelligible paradigm in space and thus creates a rational living being consisting of body and soul. This living being is the best image of the eternal living being.