ABSTRACT

The aim of this thesis is to examine the problem of soul in Plato’s *Timaeus* while paying due respect to its close connection with the topics of cosmology and cosmogony. The inquiry proceeds from the highest level of the cosmos itself to the lowest level of the souls of mortal beings. In the first chapter, an important question, whether the cosmos singularly came into being or not is being examined. In this context, two traditional approaches are distinguished and it is argued that a proper answer to this question has to contain some elements of them both.

The second chapter examines the nature of Plato’s maker of this world, the demiurge. It is argued that he is a primordial deity who should not be identified with any aspect of the created cosmos or the intelligible being and who not only creates the bodily world and its soul but serves as a sort of paradigm for the soul in respect to its capacities as well. The topics of soul and cosmos blend equally in the third chapter which is devoted to the world-soul. It concentrates on three main topics which are relevant also for the souls occupying a lower position in the hierarchy. These are the blending of the soul that explains its basic properties, the structuring of the soul and attributing it a particular motion and finally the problem of cognition and soul’s cognitive capacities.

The fourth chapter deals with a topic of the souls of astral and traditional gods which is being rather overlooked in literature. Because of the lack of information we get from Timaeus, the main question of this chapter is whether these gods have individual souls at all. The basic strategy to answer this question is to examine what these gods do. In accordance with the results of this inquiry, it is argued that the answer should be affirmative. Finally, the last chapter is devoted to the topic of the souls of mortal beings. After the investigation of the initial condition of these souls, the topic of their incarnation into mortal bodies is thoroughly examined. This section provides answers to various questions concerning for example the problem of so-called tripartition, the nature of the mortal kind of the soul or the means by which different kinds of soul communicate with each other. The whole chapter is concluded by the examination of the problem of reincarnation which explains the occurrence of animals.