

Eta Sigma Phi
Fifty-third Annual Greek Translation Contest (2002)
Advanced

To be written as an examination, under supervision, within a maximum of two hours. No lexicon or other help is permitted. Please write in ink on every other line of the paper provided. The only identification on the contest paper should be your pen name. **Translate the passage below into clear, idiomatic English.**

Plato's Socrates is speaking. He leads into the following passage by saying "Now, our first step ... is to discern the nature of soul, divine and human, its experiences, and its activities. Here then our proof begins." (Hackforth's translation.) *Phaedrus* 245C2 – 246A2

Ψυχὴ πᾶσα ἀθάνατος. τὸ γὰρ ἀεικίνητον ἀθάνατον· τὸ δ' ἄλλο κινεῖν καὶ ὑπ' ἄλλου
κινούμενον. παῦλαν ἔχον κινήσεως. παῦλαν ἔχει ζωῆς. μόνον δὲ τὸ αὐτὸ κινεῖν, ὅτε
οὐκ ἀπολείπειν ἑαυτό. οὐποτε λήγει κινούμενον. ἀλλὰ καὶ τοῖς ἄλλοις ὅσα κινεῖται τοῦτο
πηγὴ καὶ ἀρχὴ κινήσεως. ἀρχὴ δὲ ἀγένητον. ἐξ ἀρχῆς γὰρ ἀνάγκη πᾶν τὸ γιγνόμενον
γίγνεσθαι. αὐτὴν δὲ μὴδ' ἐξ ἑνός· εἰ γὰρ ἔκ του ἀρχῆς γίγνοιτο, οὐκ ἂν ἔτι ἀρχὴ γίγνοιτο.
ἐπειδὴ δὲ ἀγένητόν ἐστιν. καὶ ἀδιάφθορον αὐτὸ ἀνάγκη εἶναι. ἀρχῆς γὰρ δὴ ἀπολομένης
οὔτε αὐτὴ ποτε ἔκ του οὔτε ἄλλο ἐξ ἐκείνης γενήσεται. εἴπερ ἐξ ἀρχῆς δεῖ τὰ πάντα
γίγνεσθαι. οὕτω δὲ κινήσεως μὲν ἀρχὴ τὸ αὐτὸ αὐτὸ κινεῖν. τοῦτο δὲ οὐτ'
ἀπόλλυσθαι οὔτε γίγνεσθαι δυνατόν. ἢ πάντα τε οὐρανὸν πᾶσάν τε γῆν εἰς ἓν συμ-
πεσοῦσαν στήναι καὶ μήποτε αὐθις ἔχειν ὅθεν κινήθεντα γενήσεται. ἀθανάτου δὲ πε-
φασμένου τοῦ ὑφ' ἑαυτοῦ κινουμένου. ψυχῆς οὐσίαν τε καὶ λόγον τοῦτον αὐτόν τις λέγων
οὐκ αἰσχυνεῖται. πᾶν γὰρ σῶμα. ὧ μὲν ἔξωθεν τὸ κινεῖσθαι, ἄψυχον. ὧ δὲ ἔνδοθεν αὐτῷ ἐξ
αὐτοῦ, ἔμψυχον. ὥς ταύτης οὔσης φύσεως ψυχῆς· εἰ δ' ἔστιν τοῦτο οὕτως ἔχον. μὴ ἄλλο
τι εἶναι τὸ αὐτὸ ἑαυτὸ κινεῖν ἢ ψυχὴν. ἐξ ἀνάγκης ἀγένητόν τε καὶ ἀθάνατον ψυχὴ ἂν εἴη.

Notes and vocabulary (R=note by D.A. Russel):

ἀεικίνητος. ον. "in perpetual motion"

μὴδ' ἐξ ἑνός "≡ ἐκ μηδενός without any nuance of 'not even'" (R)

εἴπερ (line 7) "since"

τὰ πάντα (line 7) "the universe"

ἢ πάντα...στήναι...ἔχειν "'or else must come to rest...' Supply ἀνάγκη." (R)

ὅθεν ... γενήσεται "a place from which they can be activated and so come into being (R)

οὐσίαν τε καὶ λόγον "essence and principle" (R)