

QUESTIONS ARISING FROM THE SECOND PLATO TEXT:  
"THIS WORLD IS NOT OUR HOME"

39: Diogenes Allen maintains that Plato and X'y are allies in several respects, one of which is that "this world is not our home"; i.e., the sensible world depends on a non-sensible world. To what extent *is* Plato an ally? Is the affirmation of a non-sensible reality any more closely allied to X'y than the denial of a non-sensible reality? (E.g., Marx -- even as Marx takes history far more seriously, like prophets and apostles, than do Platonists.)

41: The Socratic or "maieutic" method (maieutikos = midwife) enables us to discover (uncover) what is already within us. To what extent is this possible? What kind of truth or wisdom might already be found in us, and what kind not?

One of Socrates' unforgettable pronouncements is deemed to be "Know yourself." To what extent is this possible? What about a X'n und'g of revelation? What about us has to be revealed to us? What not?

42: Plato gives a very significant place to the matter of "turning" (metanoia = repentance in scrip.) How does his und'g of this concept differ from scripture's?

Plato says we must turn from the sensible world to the supersensible world. How does an und'g of the Incarnation differ from Plato at this point?

43: The sight of beauty is double-edged: it brings to consciousness the beauty of the world of Forms, yet also quickens sexual desire. Now the soul is beset with conflict (between the sensible and the supersensible.) What is the nature of spiritual conflict according to a X'n und'g? Is all sexual desire evil? Is all sexual gratification "black"?

44: Our appetitive nature is the lowest part of our soul. In biblical thought are our appetites "lower"? Are the worst cravings bodily appetites?

46: The Form of the good is the ultimate foundation of virtue. Most people must be content with acting virtuously without ever grasping the *ground* of virtue. How do X'ns understand the difference between God's command (his claim upon us) and virtue? What is the ground of God's claim (command)? By whom can it be understood? If X'y disagrees that the good life is virtue plus knowledge of the ground of virtue, then it what does it consist?