Πλάτων, *Φαίδρος*, 245c5-246a2

Ψυχὴ πᾶσα ἀθάνατος. τὸ γὰρ ἀεικίνητον ἀθάνατον· τὸ (5)

δ’ ἄλλο κινοῦν καὶ ὑπ’ ἄλλου κινούμενον, παῦλαν ἔχον

κινήσεως, παῦλαν ἔχει ζωῆς. μόνον δὴ τὸ αὑτὸ κινοῦν, ἅτε

οὐκ ἀπολεῖπον ἑαυτό, οὔποτε λήγει κινούμενον, ἀλλὰ καὶ

τοῖς ἄλλοις ὅσα κινεῖται τοῦτο πηγὴ καὶ ἀρχὴ κινήσεως.

(d) ἀρχὴ δὲ ἀγένητον. ἐξ ἀρχῆς γὰρ ἀνάγκη πᾶν τὸ γιγνόμενον

γίγνεσθαι, αὐτὴν δὲ μηδ’ ἐξ ἑνός· εἰ γὰρ ἔκ του ἀρχὴ

γίγνοιτο, οὐκ ἂν ἔτι ἀρχὴ γίγνοιτο. ἐπειδὴ δὲ ἀγένητόν

ἐστιν, καὶ ἀδιάφθορον αὐτὸ ἀνάγκη εἶναι. ἀρχῆς γὰρ δὴ

ἀπολομένης οὔτε αὐτή ποτε ἔκ του οὔτε ἄλλο ἐξ ἐκείνης (5)

γενήσεται, εἴπερ ἐξ ἀρχῆς δεῖ τὰ πάντα γίγνεσθαι. οὕτω

δὴ κινήσεως μὲν ἀρχὴ τὸ αὐτὸ αὑτὸ κινοῦν. τοῦτο δὲ οὔτ’

ἀπόλλυσθαι οὔτε γίγνεσθαι δυνατόν, ἢ πάντα τε οὐρανὸν

(e) πᾶσάν τε γῆν εἰς ἓν συμπεσοῦσαν στῆναι καὶ μήποτε αὖθις

ἔχειν ὅθεν κινηθέντα γενήσεται. ἀθανάτου δὲ πεφασμένου @1

τοῦ ὑφ’ ἑαυτοῦ κινουμένου, ψυχῆς οὐσίαν τε καὶ λόγον

τοῦτον αὐτόν τις λέγων οὐκ αἰσχυνεῖται. πᾶν γὰρ σῶμα,

ᾧ μὲν ἔξωθεν τὸ κινεῖσθαι, ἄψυχον, ᾧ δὲ ἔνδοθεν αὐτῷ (5)

ἐξ αὑτοῦ, ἔμψυχον, ὡς ταύτης οὔσης φύσεως ψυχῆς· εἰ

δ’ ἔστιν τοῦτο οὕτως ἔχον, μὴ ἄλλο τι εἶναι τὸ αὐτὸ ἑαυτὸ

246.

(a) κινοῦν ἢ ψυχήν, ἐξ ἀνάγκης ἀγένητόν τε καὶ ἀθάνατον ψυχὴ

ἂν εἴη.

“All soul[18] is immortal because the ever-moving is immortal, but that which moves another, and is moved by another, ceases living if it ceases moving. Indeed, only that which moves itself, since it does not depart from itself, never stops moving, and this is also the fount and source of motion for anything else that moves. 245D But source is not generated, for everything that is generated must be generated from source, but it must not come from one. For if source were to be generated from something it would no longer be source. And since it is un-generated it must also be indestructible. For of course, once source is destroyed it will never be generated from something, nor will anything else be generated from it, since all things must be generated from source. Accordingly, whatever moves itself is the source of motion, and this can be neither generated nor destroyed, or else the entire heaven and all the 245E earth would collapse into one and be static, without anything from which motion could ever be generated again. And since it has been shown that whatever is moved by itself is immortal, anyone who states that this is the very essence and definition of soul will not be put to shame. For every body to which movement comes from outside is soulless, but if the movement comes from within itself then that body is ensouled, because that is the nature of soul. But if it is the case that whatever moves 246A itself is nothing other than soul, soul would, of necessity, be both un-generated and immortal.

Translation by David Horan