

24.200: Ancient Philosophy
Prof. Sally Haslanger

TEXT ANALYSIS PRESENTATION
For
Wednesday, September 29

Tell me again from the beginning, he said, and do not answer in the words of the question, but do as I do. I say that beyond that safe answer, which I spoke of first, I see another safe answer. If you should ask me what coming into a body makes it hot, my reply would not be that safe and ignorant one, that it is heat, but our present argument provides a more sophisticated answer, namely, fire, and if you ask me what, on coming into a body, makes it sick, I will not say sickness but fever. Nor, if asked the presence of what in a number makes it odd, I will not say oddness, but oneness, and so with other things. See if you now sufficiently understand what I want.

--Quite sufficiently.

Answer me then, he said, what is it that, present in a body, makes it living.

--A soul.

And is that always so?

--Of course.

Whatever the soul occupies, it always brings life to it?

--It does.

Is there, or is there not, an opposite to life?

--There is.

What is it?

--Death.

So the soul will never admit the opposite of that which it brings along, as we agree from what has been said?

--Most certainly, said Cebes.

Plato, *Phaedo*, 105b4-d6