



SCIENCE
BEFORE SOCRATES

Parmenides, Anaxagoras, and
the New Astronomy

Daniel W. Graham

Science before Socrates: Parmenides, Anaxagoras, and the New Astronomy, Daniel Graham, Oxford University Press, 2013, 0199959781, 9780199959785, 304 pages. In Science before Socrates, Daniel Graham argues against the prevalent belief that the Presocratic philosophers did not produce any empirical science and that the first major Greek science, astronomy, did not develop until at least the time of Plato. Instead, Graham proposes that the advances made by Presocratic philosophers in the study of astronomy deserve to be considered as scientific contributions. Whereas philosophers of the sixth century BC treated astronomical phenomena as ephemeral events continuous with weather processes, those of the fifth century treated heavenly bodies as independent stony masses whirled in a cosmic vortex. Two historic events help to date and account for the change: a solar eclipse in 478 BC and a meteoroid that fell to earth around 466. Both events influenced Anaxagoras, who transformed insights from Parmenides into explanations of lunar and solar eclipses, meteors, and rainbows. Virtually all philosophers came to accept Anaxagoras' theory of lunar light and eclipses. Aristotle endorsed Anaxagoras' theory of eclipses as a paradigm of scientific explanation. Anaxagoras' theories launched a geometrical approach to astronomy and were accepted as foundational principles by all mathematical astronomers from Aristarchus to Ptolemy to Copernicus and Galileo-and to the present day..

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Plato and Pythagoreanism , Phillip Sidney Horky, Sep 19, 2013, History, 305 pages. In this book, Phillip Sidney Horky argues that a specific type of Pythagorean philosophy, called "mathematical" Pythagoreanism, exercised a decisive influence on fundamental

Scientists as Prophets A Rhetorical Genealogy, Lynda Walsh, Aug 1, 2013, Language Arts & Disciplines, 304 pages. In Scientists as Prophets, Lynda Walsh argues that our science advisors manufacture certainty for us in the face of the unknown. Through a series of cases reaching from the

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