three solitary figures:

pythagoras:

due:  thursday, august 28, 2003

read:  11-13

1.  [26] Why does Pythagoras tell his followers to abstain from beans? ☺
2.  [29] Explain the parallel that Pythagoras draws between the three groups of people in life and the three groups of people to be found at a festival. How does this statement help us to understand the pythagorean way of life?

xenophanes:

due:  thursday, august 28, 2003

read:  14-15

1.  Xenophanes draws a contrast between two different views of the gods. The first is described in [2]-[5], and the second is described in [6]-[9]. Critically reflect on this contrast. What is Xenophanes’ point in raising it? Where do you think he got his ideas about god? Could he be a believer?
2.  Summarize Xenophanes’ epistemology on the basis of fragments [11] and [12]. Do you agree or disagree? Why?

heraclitus:

due:  tuesday, september 2, 2003

read:  15-18

1.  The claim made in fragment [7] would seem to be at odds with the claim made in fragment [14]. Reconcile these two. How does fragment [32] affect your reading of [7] and [14]?
2.  What is the philosophical significance of fragment [12]?
3.  Why does Heraclitus choose fire as the primary element?