The Pre-Socratics

1) We have moved from what is philosophy, to myths, to the philosophy of history, to the Old Testament.

2) Who started it? Was it Thales, Pythagoras, or Parmenides?

3) The Standard Picture. Philosophy develops in Ionia with such thinkers as Thales, Anaximander, and Anaximenes.

4) Parmenides, asks a question that is radically shifted around.

5) Parmenides’ concern is metaphyics – specifically ontology.

6) So what is so special about Pre-Socratic Philosophers?

 a) They invented the idea of science and philosophy.

 b) Transformed the notion of explanation.

 c) Pre-Socratic explanations were systematic.

 d) Pre-Socratic explanations were economical.

7) What was so special about Parmenides’ question?

8) Parmenides asks a question with a long shelf life.

8) The Way of Truth.

9) Thinking is always about something.

10) Our fundamental mistake is to assume that the realm of becoming really exists and that there can be knowledge in such a realm.

11) From a critical perspective – it seems the assumption is that reality is going to conform (or must conform) to the nature of our thoughts.