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HIS 113: World Civilization

The term “Cosmos” refers to an order. The term “Nature of Cosmos” refers to the universe in an orderly route. In other words, “the ordered structure of the universe.” The Axial Age, running through 600 BCE to 300 BCE, is best explained as a time when “the great intellectual, philosophical, and religious systems” came to shape human society, emerging culture. In this era, religious organizations and philosophical schools were formed based on values and character.

I think we are the descendants of the Axial Age today as some principles or norms cannot be disregarded today, regardless of how dominant a person or state for that matter may be as for example, it’s evident in the Declaration of Human Rights as well as in all of the major world faiths. As growing urban civilization, which was at first promoted by a “priestly ruling class,” which promoted and boosted trade and brought many different societies together. However, as urban life grew and got bigger, it changed the previous order people had lived throughout time. Even more than that, this new way of life led to unheard-of social and political unrest as well as an “upsurge in violence and aggressive behavior.” I think this new way of living generated social and political conflict worldwide, following an increase in cruelty or aggression towards oneself or others. I believe it is no longer possible to take old traditions for granted. For example, as soon as people interacted with those who held different opinions than their own, many people started to doubt their own perspectives. They had to decide whether to take a fresh look at themselves and consider new ideas or stick rigidly to their old ones.

I think through our own ethical action, we're able to lead the universe with a better or worse ending and move from the self-deception and self-destruction into more of a world free from the pain and suffering that we often inflict on ourselves and towards each other. It wasn't more of not believing something without the proper evidence to support it but instead, it was a sense of timing in how things were turning and paying attention to history and seeing how history was repeating itself.

References (that are not in the chapter):

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4802742/>