

Brill, S. (2015) “Animality and Sexual Difference in the *Timaeus*”, in M. Naas and J. Bell (eds), *Plato’s Animals: Gadflies, Stingrays and other Philosophical Beasts*, Indiana University Press, 161-78.

Timaeus’s answer to the question of how mortal animals come to be also purports to answer why they come to be; that is, the dialogue claims to discern the working of mind not only in the behavior of certain animal but also in the diversity of animal life and in the processes of its generation. To do this, Timaeus posits a masculine human prototype whose actions generate the need for sexually differentiated bodies. In this paper I argue that an investigation into the emergence of sexual difference in the *Timaeus* not only provides insight into Plato’s thinking about animals but also allows us to explore the status of Timaeus’s cosmogony vis a vis philosophic thought.