

## Plato "Innate Knowledge"

1. Meno accused Socrates of questioning everything and making others question everything. Meno uses an example of Socrates being like a torpedo and blasting through the thought processes of everyone and making everyone think about why they say the things they say and do the things they do. Socrates's responds by analyzing why Meno used the simile. Socrates explains what he does because he does not know himself. He does not know what virtue is and believes Meno is in the same situation as him, but has no objection to going with Meno on a quest to find out what virtue is.
2. How do you start a search for something you do not know? How will you know that you got what you were looking for if you do not know what it is you are looking for? But if we never enquire, we will never grow in knowledge. We must not allow ourselves to think that if we do not know we cannot know.
3. Plato's theory of innate knowledge, from my understanding, is that everything we 'learn' is all based on assumption of things we already know from a former life. We see this in Socrates's conversation with Meno's servant boy by Socrates asking the boy a series of increasing questions with him assuming that all is the correct and the same based on what he can see and is told. Socrates never taught him any of this but following the line of understanding and what he already knows, he was able to make logical deduction. He has the beginning thoughts and so and was braver and more confident to make the deduction, was wrong in it, but knew more now than when he started, and would want to learn the actual answer of the question. Putting everything together he came up with the correct answer on his own with no way of knowing, never being taught, proving that recollection from another life must be the answer. The soul must be immortal and forever learning.

## Aristotle "Demonstrative Knowledge"

1. Aristotle's view of how we gain knowledge is like a math problem. We know  $1 + 1$  equals 2, so we can use that beginning scientific knowledge to deduce that adding  $1 + 1 + 1$  equals one more than 2, which would be 3. We use our reasoning and logic to back our decisions and choices. We use what we know to make the best choice we can in the moment. "A syllogism is a standard pattern of formal valid argument." A demonstration, a scientific demonstration is in my own words, someone who has greater understanding of a subject, using that knowledge to make a better conclusion than the everyday man could.
2. Aristotle makes the point that sense-perception is key to gaining the beginnings of knowledge. We use our senses to gain information and then we use intuition to make sense of the information to turn it into knowledge.
3. An example of gaining knowledge using Aristotle's method in my own words would be, a cup of coffee. The smell of each type has a different smell, different taste, black or light and sweet. I use my senses to determine what I like in smell and taste, and what blends together well. I use my memory to think about each one and remember which one I like, then finally generalize what I like to get it each time I go, and I can guide others in what they are looking for in a coffee. I am speaking from experience in doing this, which then constitutes a scientific demonstration.