

Sulcho Woo

PHI101: intro to Philosophy

1/25/2023

Week one: Reading 1

1. What does Meno accuse Socrates of at the start of the reading? How does Socrates interpret this criticism?

Meno accuses Socrates by calling him a “torpedo fish” by putting forth questions that stuns the people and makes them doubt their virtue whether it is taught or inherit in our nature. Socrates takes the approach of what virtue actually is. He interprets his criticism by agreeing with him in a way where he was taking it as some sort of compliment as he does not give the same criticism to Meno for his approach

2. Explain the paradox/problem (the "Learner's Paradox") that Meno and Socrates talk about on the second page, concerning enquiry and learning and interpreting what we know.

In Socrates response for the “Learner’s paradox” he tells Meno that we are recollecting what we already know. The problem for Meno was how can one know without knowing or acquiring new information. The idea such as virtue was a topic that was brought up as Meno tries to inquire that virtue is something we learn as we live or taught, as Socrates ask the question of what virtue actually is and how it is something that we as “souls” are just recollecting.

If you know what you’re looking for, inquiry is unnecessary.

If you don’t know what you’re looking for, inquiry is impossible.

Therefore, inquiry is either unnecessary or impossible.

3. Explain Plato's theory of innate knowledge, and how Socrates's conversation with Meno's servant boy is an attempt to demonstrate its truth.

Plato’s theory of innate knowledge is the idea that we as living beings with souls are just recollecting the information that was already given to us either in the “past life” and that the soul of each individual is something that can understand “true knowledge”. In the writing Socrates uses Meno’s servant boy by first teaching him geometric concepts and slowly allowing the servant to understand

a geometry question as he starts to “recollect” and solve the problem by himself after a few failed attempts.

Reading 2:

1. In your own words, explain the deductive aspect of Aristotle's view of how we gain knowledge. What is a syllogism? What is a demonstration?

Aristotle's view of how we gain knowledge is through our experiences summed up in three words which are induction, deduction and intuition. He teaches us that all living beings have some sort of faculties to inquire knowledge which can be explained through induction. As we learn to deduct what can be true and inquire the information we need it's our intuition that help us understand complete his epistemology. Syllogism is a special kind of argument that follows a pattern, attempting to establish a relationship between two things by connecting them to each to a third. A demonstration that was given in the lecture is (All dogs are mammals. All mammals are animals. Therefore, all dogs are animals.)

2. What point does Aristotle make about how deduction by itself doesn't lead to truth about the world?

That deduction does not have to be related to reality that a reason can be reasoned by a valid argument. As the lecture showed about the cats being rats the form of argument and the method is valid, the argument presented does not have to in the confounds of reality or what is true as long as the method and of deducted is applied through a proper format.

3. Present in your own words the inductive process of gaining knowledge according to Aristotle, including the role of the senses, memory and generalization.

A man walks into a huge house that has multiple room as he opens the first door he realizes there are spikes all over the door knob, every door he tries to open he is pricked by the spikes that are on the door knob. His senses feel pain and every time he tries to enter into a new room he experiences the same problem. The house has more than 50 doors and by the fifth door he soon realizes through his senses, memory, and experience that the next door knob is spiked also.

