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Introduction to Philosophy

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Reading Questions Week 1

Plato, “Innate Knowledge” (Meno)- pp. 3-12: (Answers)

1. Based on my understanding of the dialog between Meno and Socrates, I believe he is accusing Socrates of being a manipulator/ torpedo fish. As for Socrates' interpretation of that, he calls Meno dishonest and confesses the fact that he is a manipulator and this is because he is perplexed himself.
2. They are talking about the fact that when someone enquires about something that they do not know about then they will eventually gather information and knowledge about that specific problem. I believe that if you know about something but then enquire about it you may have more insight and knowledge about that specific thing. By weighing your different research pieces you will have valid information instead of opinions.
3. Based on Plato's theory of innate knowledge, Socrates is proving to Meno that even though the mind may know about something it is more convincing through experience. Socrates is not controlling the servant boy's mind but after explaining his example, the boy discovered his answer by his experience not only by Socrates's teaching.

Aristotle, “ Demonstrative Knowledge”, pp. 18-21:

1. Based on my reasoning and understanding from the text, Aristotle is basically saying, we as humans already have raw knowledge but after experience and more research or teachings that raw knowledge comes alive with legit information. A syllogism is a standard pattern of formal valid argument. Demonstration is the act or process of showing the existence or truth of something by giving proof or evidence.
2. Aristotle reasoning is basically saying that human minds already have the information; however, when taught about that information it brings clarity to whatever knowledge is being gained.
3. The inductive process of gaining knowledge is a reasoning that involves moving from the particular to the general in order to arrive at conclusions. This is switching from general information to specific conclusions.