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Philosophy

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Plato, “The allegory of Cave” (Republic).

- 1. Why do you think the form of the Good is considered by Plato to be ultimate illuminating idea that helps understand truth and reality?**

Plato's most insightful concept was The Form of the Good, an unchanging foundation of existence and truth. He thought that the Form of the Good, which provided an impartial and everlasting basis for interpreting everything, was the ultimate source of knowledge. The Type of the Good, according to Plato, represents the height of knowledge and enlightenment. A universal truth was given to all disciplines by the Form of the Good. It couldn't be disputed. Plato thus considered the Form of the Good to be the most wise conception.

- 2. Recount and explain Plato’s Allegory of the cave. How does it relate to knowledge? How does it relate to levels of reality?**

Plato's concept of forms is illustrated in Plato's Allegory of the Cave. In a cave, people are chained to the wall. A fire is lit behind them, casting shadows on the wall. The cave dwellers believe only these shadows exist and are unable to comprehend anything else.

The metaphor contends that knowledge can only be obtained by looking beyond the visible world and attempting to grasp the unseen flawless forms. It implies that knowing entails a more in-depth understanding of the forms beneath the physical world, rather than just observation and experience.

3. Explain in your own words the levels of reality represented by Plato's divided line.

Plato's split line illustrates the four realities. Opinion and thinking are the first two realities. Opinion is the universe of physical things and the senses we employ to understand it. Abstract conceptions let us understand the ideal world in thinking. Imagination and intellect are the third and fourth realities. Images, symbols, and metaphors inhabit imagination. Intelligence is pure knowledge and comprehension, transcending the physical and mental worlds. Plato's dividing line explains reality's multiple levels and how we learn.

Aristotle "Individual substance" (categories). (76-79).

1. In your own words and referencing the reading, explain the main point Aristotle makes in describing a primary basic "substance" as the fundamental basis of reality.

According to Aristotle, substance is the highest form of reality, since it does not fall under any other category of being and serves as the foundation for all other categories of being. Aristotle also refers to substance as a fundamental fact or as the foundation of all things in existence.

2. What does Aristotle mean when he says that substance cannot be "said of" or "said in" a subject? Look up the concept of predicate online. How might you rephrase Aristotle's point by saying substances can never be a predicate?

Aristotle is referring to the concept of predicate, which is a word or phrase used to describe the subject of a sentence. He is saying that substances cannot be used to describe the subject because substances are the underlying subject of a sentence. In other words, substances can never be a predicate. This can be rephrased as: substances can never be used to describe or modify another subject in a sentence.

3. Why do you think Aristotle picks out primary substance as the basic building block of reality, and not the parts or atoms or matter or any other smaller thing that might make up a substance?

Aristotle believed that primary substance is the basic building block of reality because it is the only thing that exists in and of itself. It is the only thing that does not depend on any other thing for its existence. All other objects, including parts, atoms, and matter, are composed of primary substance and are thus seen as dependent on primary substance for their existence. Thus, primary substance is seen as the foundation of all other objects and is the most basic building block of reality.

Aristotle, “Four types of explanation” (physics) – P 413- 415

1. List and explain in your own words four main reasons (sometimes called “causes”) for why a substance is what it is accordingly to Aristotle.

Material cause: "that out of which" it is made.

Efficient Cause: the source of the objects principle of change or stability.

Formal Cause: the essence of the object.

Final Cause: the end/goal of the object, or what the object is good for.

2. Take an example of a table. How would you explain why a table is what it is, in terms of the four main types of explanation according to Aristotle.

There is overlap between the four possible "causes." If you want to explain a phenomenon, and especially the physical shape of an object, according to Aristotle, you need to provide at least four reasons. In response to a question about why a particular table is constructed as it is, one might use the following formulation to talk about the four factors at play: The brown color and sturdy construction of this table are the result of its material composition wood and its geometrical arrangement four legs of uniform length (form) and its causal composition a carpenter (agent) who fashioned it from a tree (substance). Finally, its dimensions six feet long by thirty inches wide by twenty-four inches high by eighteen inches deep reflect its intended use by humans (end).

3. What does Aristotle say about the fourth cause of things and how it even exists in nature? How does nature show this cause? Do you agree or disagree that there is a true purposefulness in nature? Why?

According to Aristotle, the final cause, or fourth cause, is the reason why something exists or is done. To prove his point that nature has a plan, he pointed to the fact that everything in the natural world is so intricately designed. It is the job of a tree to bear fruit, and the job of the eye to see. He contended that this orderliness was proof of a higher power's involvement. Yes, I also think nature serves a higher purpose. I think everything in the universe has a built-in logic and harmony that helps it function as it should. There must be a higher power or divine plan behind all of this, in my opinion.