

Mia Espinoza

Professor Sanchez

Intro to Philosophy

17 February 2023

Reading Questions

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

I understand the ultimate, illuminating idea as the sun as Plato put it. It brought the prisoner understanding of the reality around him, and in a way brings us out of darkness and lights up a path of truth for us.

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 allegory of the cave explains a metaphor with prisoners, chained at the pit of this said cave. With them, and their limited ability to see things around them they are restricted in their site and visuals. This can represent knowledge in many ways as some of us are restricted, and may have tunnel vision on certain subjects or aspects of knowledge. Later a prisoner is released from the outside world for the first time this broadens their aspect of reality completely. This cave metaphor shows us that knowledge without understanding of our circumstances is not full knowledge at all.

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

Plato's three levels of reality are displayed as imagination, understanding, and belief.

Imagination being our perspective created in our minds. Belief as in our own ideas, merging with our imagination to create an even more in-depth reality, and Understanding which connects imagination and beliefs and forms are the ultimate idea of truth.

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.

Aristotle believes substance is the foundation of reality. He says "all the other things are either side of the primary substances as subjects, or in them as subjects." He shows that it is substances that drive our realities to even exist in the first place.

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

When talking of something "said of" it uses inclusive language, while something that is "said in" is dependent on the substance. This means that while its subject identifies what something is about, a predicate is a property of what is being said. This means a substance can never be a predicate because it relies on everything that comes after.

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?

Pick primary substances as the basic building blocks of reality because without them, everything tangible in our lives wouldn't be possible. Everything you know is broken down informed by small substances.

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

Firstly, is the material aspect of a tangible object which gives it substance. The second is the product's use, and ability that allows it to exist. The third is its formation, which is the overall being, and how it is perceived, and its full capacity. And the fourth is its reasoning or ultimate purpose for use in the tangible realm.

2. Take the 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.

I would say a table is what it is based on its material which is granite, or wood, its cause which is to place things on, and its final purpose to dine and sit at.

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?

Aristotle says the fourth cause is the reasoning for something being done, this thing is related to nature in that nature works and functions to keep the world alive. Nature is a great example of finality, because it shows how our world tirelessly works to support the purpose of its existence.