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PHI101

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1. Meno compares Socrates to a stingray who paralyzes anyone who approaches him with his stings at the beginning of the reading. Meno accuses Socrates of being overly intelligent and of using his knowledge to make others feel humiliated and lesser than. Meno's criticism is seen by Socrates as a compliment rather than an insult. He thinks Meno is saying that he can get knowledge from others. Socrates also holds the view that his line of questioning is not meant to degrade others but to assist them in discovering the truth. He says that he is more interested in learning than in winning arguments.
2. Meno and Socrates discuss the "Learner's Paradox," which is the issue of how we can question something without already knowing something about it. The paradox results from the fact that if we already know what we're looking for, we don't need to ask about it, but if we don't, we won't know it when we see it. As a result, it appears that we are caught in a paradox and are unable to have our knowledge progress.
3. According to Plato's theory of innate knowledge, which is discussed in the dialogue, we are born with all wisdom all we need to do is recall it through a process of reflection and self-examination. Socrates asks Meno's servant boy about a geometry problem, even though the boy has no prior knowledge of geometry, to prove this theory. The boy is led to the right response by Socrates through a series of leading questions, which the boy is then able to conclude on his own. Socrates claims that because the boy was able to come

to the right conclusion without any guidance or training, he must have possessed some innate knowledge of geometry that was activated by his questioning.

Aristotle, "Demonstrative Knowledge", pp. 18-21

- 1.** Deductive reasoning, which begins with general principles and uses logical reasoning to arrive at specific conclusions, is a key component of Aristotle's theory of how we acquire knowledge. A syllogism is a logical argument that consists of two premises and a conclusion, with the conclusion necessarily following the premises. On the other hand, a demonstration is a type of deductive reasoning that offers conclusive proof for a conclusion by using several philosophies.
- 2.** Aristotle argues that since deductive reasoning begins with assumptions that may not be true, deduction by itself cannot give knowledge about the world. The deduction is only as good as the assumptions we begin with, and if those premises aren't true or lacking in some important information, then the conclusion we take from them will also be untrue or lacking in these elements.
- 3.** Aristotle believed that learning involved using our senses to observe the environment around us and then coming to conclusions from those observations. These observations are kept in our memories, and as time passes, we gain enough information to draw generalizations about the world. Based on these generalizations, we then make conclusions using logical reasoning.