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PHI 101 Introduction to Philosophy

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Paper 1 (Epistemology)

Epistemology, a philosophy that studies the nature of knowledge and how we for years have searched for it. In this field of Epistemology I usually think of Plato, a great mind who believed that the ultimate reality lives beyond our world. Knowledge is what makes thinkers like Plato be able to try to find out what is so great about our existence and if there is really is a main goal to achieve.

Plato has a theory of knowledge that believes the idea that true Knowledge is not based on experience but of a higher reality of ourselves. Now I think that he has a point but there's some things I would tweak a bit about this. I personally feel that Knowledge is both off of experience but that experience is given to us from a someone from a different reality that's connected to ours. Plato argued that are senses can lead us to just making a lot of trials with a load of errors but I can see that happening with any other thing we can use to gain the information we need to achieve because to succeed we need to fail because no one learns from winning all the time, you gotta lose to win. Plato i'm sure understood this to an extent because without that I don't think we would be talking about plato the way we do today, or any other philosopher at that.

Plato mentions in his talk of knowledge how there's a concept which is called the "Divided Line theory". A theory which highlights different points of knowledge which I believe all need each other for everything to work. These four points are one Belief, two perceptions, three is Opinion which is very important on how much knowledge a person can obtain, and finally Knowledge. These four all come together so well because you need to have a belief in something that can give you a perception then could lead to an opinion then after all of that knowledge is made off of whatever said person wanted to know. Plato says the highest knowledge is knowing all forms Which I agree but what is the purpose of knowing all of the forms, do you use this information to figure out why we exist or just to know which is my main question to his studies.

Like mentioned earlier on about how Plato discussed how he didn't see sensory experience necessary, many other philosophers disagreed with how he thought that was the way to live life where they thought we need to have experience with our senses because if not then how can we as humans fully achieve knowledge. I feel that because of this theory many other philosophers will take charge and try to see if they agree or disagree with his thoughts. I think that this actually might help us truly understand the idea of attaining the knowledge that Plato was discussing. Now the more I look into it I truly feel that Plato kinda had a point but overall cutting off the senses ruins the chances of higher learning as us humans love to do whether we are philosophers or not. I do think it's interesting that Plato thinks that there is a realm beyond ours but I wonder what realm he thinks it is.

Plato's influence was greater than we could ever think because he influenced all of the western philosophy. These theories are because of the thoughts that made this society that I get to live in. Topics like Forms or the "Divided Line" is what the basics to what the backbone of our society is today. Plato had a very comprehensive account of how the state of knowledge is acquired which sparked many different sections of philosophy. Plato was ahead of his time when it came to thinking of how we think which I feel I can learn a lot from him and apply it to my own thoughts because I feel everyone wants to get a better understanding of not only our world but how our minds come all together.

To conclude Epistemology is philosophy that studies the nature of knowledge and Plato was the perfect person who fitted under that study because his study of knowledge was very detailed and very calculated. I admire the work he put into his studies which amazes me considering he was doing this centuries ago. To Plato true knowledge was gained through many things and those things are the reason why we think the way we think and have such great minds today.