

Plato, "Innate Knowledge"

1. Meno accuses Socrates of being like a stingray that stuns people with his words and then leaves them in a state of confusion without providing any answers. Socrates interprets this criticism as an invitation to engage in a dialogue that will lead them to the truth of the matter.
2. The Learner's Paradox is a problem that arises when one tries to enquire about something they do not know. If one knows what they are looking for, they do not need to enquire. If they do not know what they are looking for, they would not recognize it even if they found it. Therefore, it seems impossible to enquire about something we do not already know.
3. Plato's theory of innate knowledge posits that knowledge is not acquired from experience but is already present within the soul. Socrates tries to demonstrate this by questioning Meno's servant boy about a geometrical problem. By asking leading questions, Socrates shows that the boy already knows the answer to the problem even though he has never been formally taught geometry. This suggests that the boy has innate knowledge that he can access through the process of recollection.

Aristotle, "Demonstrative Knowledge"

1. Aristotle's view of how we gain knowledge is deductive. Deduction is a process of reasoning that starts with general principles or premises and draws specific conclusions from them. A syllogism is a deductive argument consisting of two premises and a conclusion. A demonstration is a syllogism in which the premises are necessary and the conclusion follows necessarily from them.
2. Aristotle points out that deduction by itself doesn't lead to truth about the world because the premises that we start with might not correspond to reality. In other words, the validity of a deductive argument does not guarantee the truth of its conclusion. To arrive at the truth, we need to start with true premises, which can only be obtained through experience.
3. According to Aristotle, the process of gaining knowledge through induction involves three steps: sense perception, memory, and generalization. Sense perception is the first step in which we observe individual things and events through our senses. Memory is the second step in which we retain and recall our sense experiences. Generalization is the final step in which we abstract common features from our sense experiences and form universal concepts or principles. Induction allows us to arrive at general truths based on particular observations.