

Plato, *Republic*, lecture 2

Arts One, Authority & Resistance, Fall 2018
Christina Hendricks (Philosophy)

*Power, Knowledge, &
(no need for) Resistance*



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*What in what you've read & discussed
about this text makes sense to you,
if anything?*

Responses:

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underscore

Two of the main questions in the text

in my reading...

1. What are justice/injustice (in state and soul)?
2. Is it better to be a just or unjust person?

Also:

Is justice good **intrinsically**, or only **instrumentally**?

Book 2, 357b-d, p. 36



G&A want Socrates to show this

Appearance & Reality



Trick Eye Museum, Hongdae, Seoul, South Korea; Flickr photo shared by Jirka Matousek, licensed CC BY 2.0:
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Appearance & Reality re: Justice

How justice appears to most people (Bk 2)

Appearance is what matters:
how you seem on the outside, to others



Order of lives, from best to worst

(359a-362c, pp. 37-40)

- Best: be unjust, ~~appear just~~
- Middle: be just, appear just
- Worst: be just, appear unjust

Socrates

Worst

Best

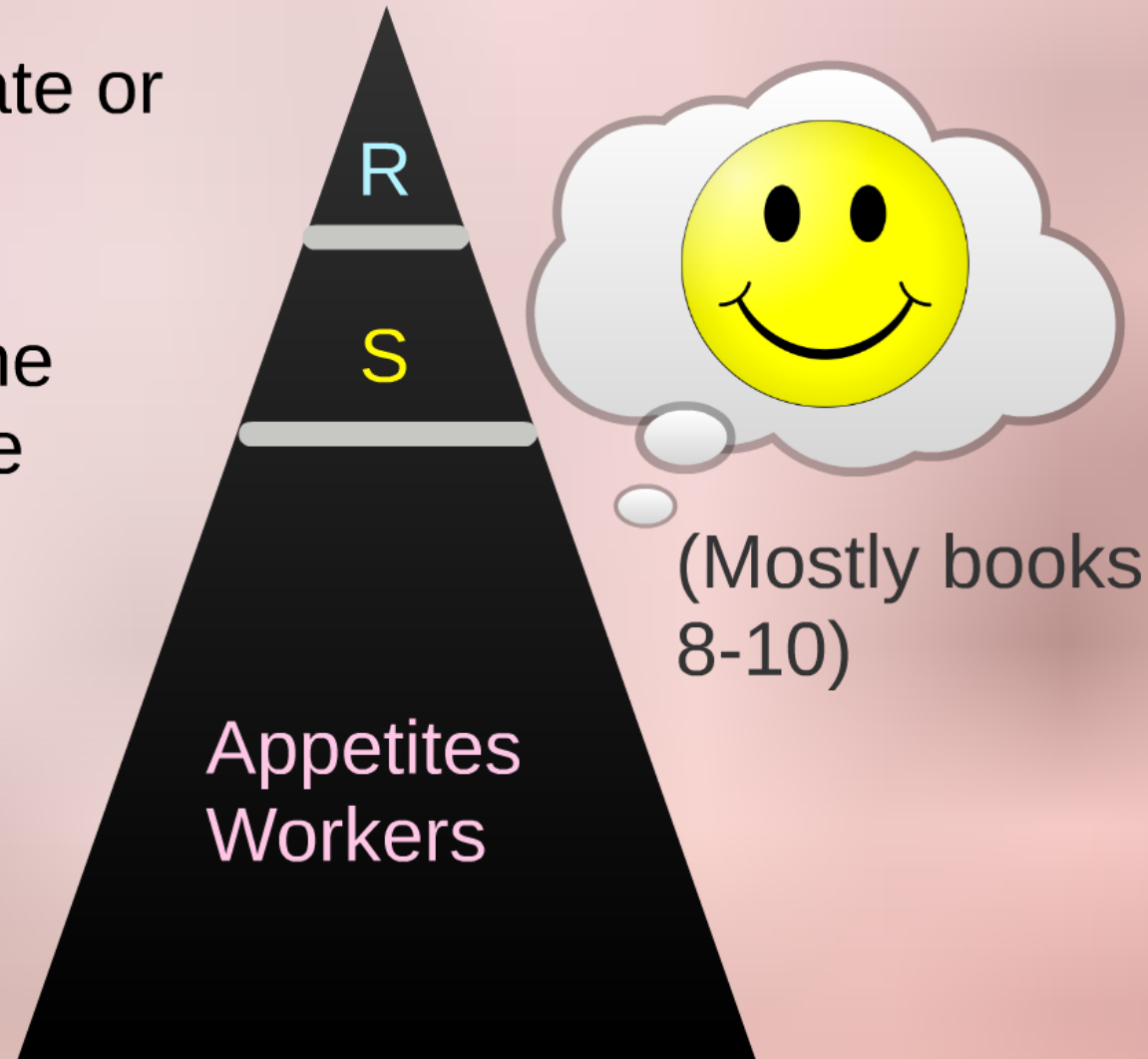
Middle

Reality re: justice

What matters is internal structure:

- **Justice:** each part of state or soul doing its own work
- **Injustice:** meddling of the parts with the work of the others

Bk 4, 434c, p. 121 443d,
p. 132



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Socrates

Worst

Best

Middle

Appearance/reality in the cave



"A Tribute to Plato," flickr photo by Tim Bocek, licensed CC BY-NC-SA 2.0: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/tbocek/3022756024/>



How might you say we here, too, are like people in this cave watching shadows?

Plato's Allegory of the Cave, by John D'Alembert, licensed CC BY-SA on Wikimedia Commons: https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Plato%27s_Allegory_of_the_Cave_B%2BW_clear.jpg



58 family watching TV, public domain on Wikimedia Commons: <https://>



Everyone is staring at their phone on the Seoul metro, 2010; Flickr photo shared by Marc Smith, licensed CC BY 2.0: https://www.flickr.com/photos/marc_smith/5166351572

More appearance vs reality



Truth

Lie

- "true lies" (real lies) vs "lies in words" (382 b-d, p. 63)
- lies as drugs

Examples in the text?



Form of Beauty

476b-480a
pp. 169-175

Reality



Appearance

"What about someone who believes in beautiful things, but does not believe in the beautiful itself...? Do you think he is living in a dream, or is he awake?" (Book 5, 476c, p. 169)

Plato's Metaphysics

more
real

invisible/
intelligible

visible/
sensible

less
real

A



D



C



E



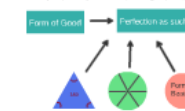
B

Sun: Form of the Good

The sun and the good



John M. Rist, "The Sun and the Good" in Plato's Republic, edited by G. M. A. Grube, Cambridge (1955) pp. 201-202



Other Forms

What are the "Forms"?



Forms as mathematical objects



Forms as ethical concepts



imitations of forms in words and images

e.g., drawings of triangles
(Bk 6, 510e, p. 206)

Fire: sun in visible realm Puppets: physical objects, natural & manufactured

Bk 6, 510a, p. 206)

images, reflections, paintings, poetry

(Bk 6, 510a, p. 205)

Outside
cave

Inside
cave

Bk 6, 507b p. 202

Cave

What cave represents

What are the "Forms"?

Some quotes:

- Bk 4: 435a-b, p. 121
- Bk 5: 476a-c p. 169, 479a, p. 173
- Bk 6: 507b, p. 202
- Bk 10: 596a, p. 298

Forms:

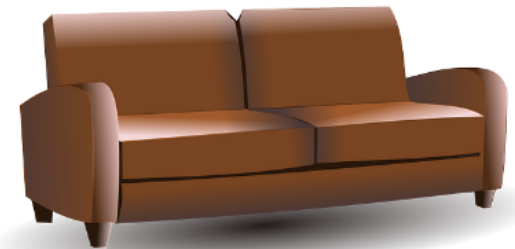
- in intelligible realm, not visible: not in space/time
- understood through reason, not senses
- unchanging, eternal, objectively true essences of things such as justice, beauty, goodness

Form of
Couch

"partakes, approximates"
(Bk 5, 472c, p. 165)

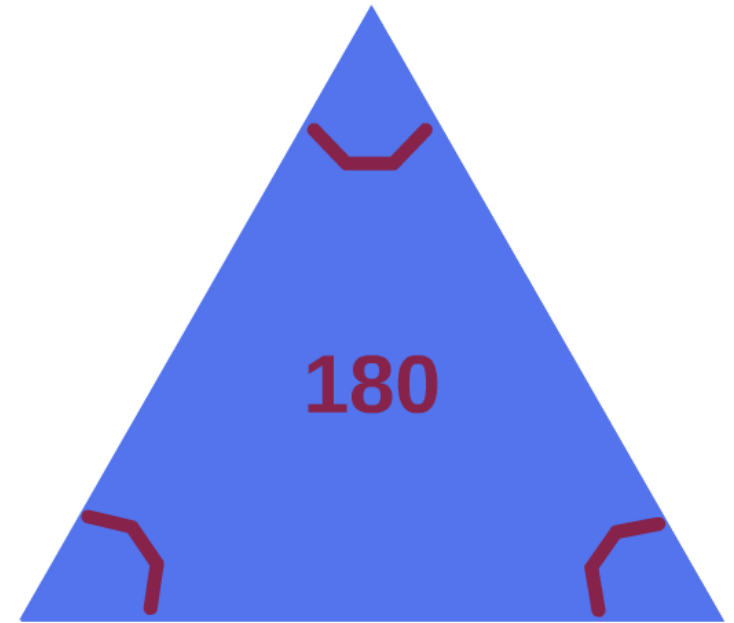
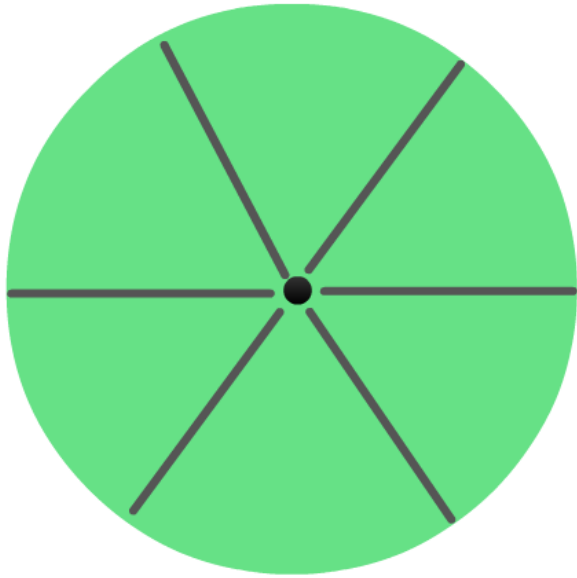


"imitates" (Bk 10,
597e, p. 300-301)



Three couches: Bk 10,
596e-597e, pp. 299-300

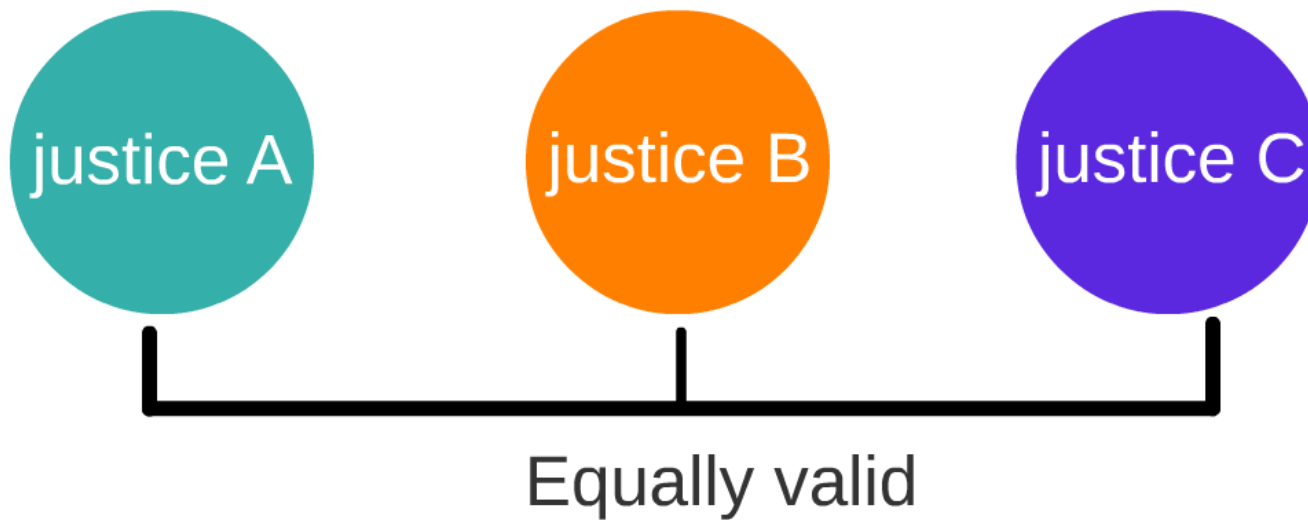
Forms as mathematical objects



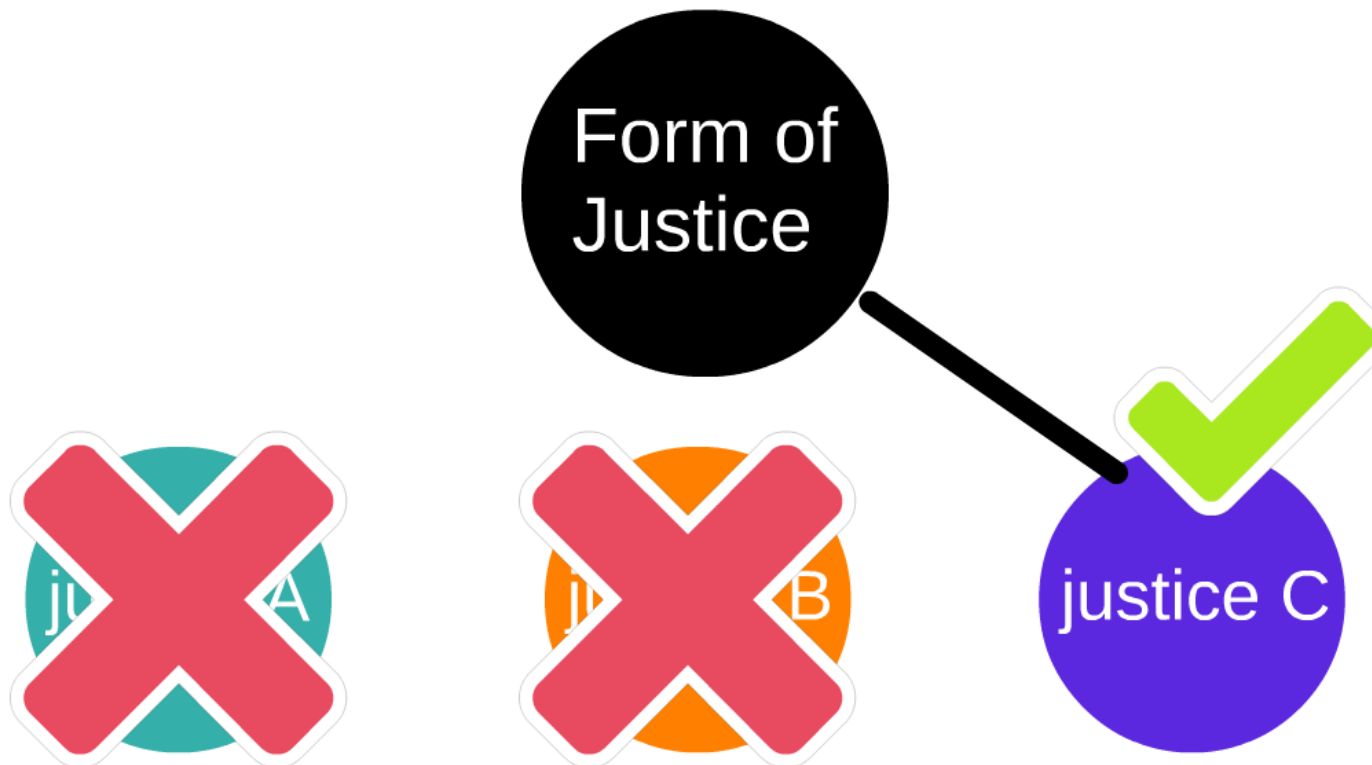
Objectively, universally true

Geometers and mathematicians "use visible forms and make their arguments about them, although they are not thinking about them, but about those other things that they are like[.] They make their arguments with a view to the square itself and the diagonal itself ..." (Bk 6, 510e, p. 206).

Forms as ethical concepts



**Ethical
Relativism**



**Ethical
Objectivism**

Plato's Metaphysics

**more
real**

invisible/
intelligible

visible/
sensible

less
real

Bk 6, 507b p. 202

Cave

Sun: Form of the Good



Other Forms



*imitations of forms in words
and images*

e.g., drawings of triangles
(Bk 6, 510e, p. 206)

Fire: sun in visible realm
Puppets: physical objects,
natural & manufactured

Bk 6, 510a, p. 206)

*images, reflections,
paintings, poetry*

(Bk 6, 510a, p. 205)

What cave represents

Outside

Inside cave

The sun and the good

507d-509b, pp. 203-205

Visible realm



Eyes

Need light to see
--from sun

Things in visible realm owe
"their coming-to-be, growth,
and nourishment" to sun
(509b)

Intelligible realm

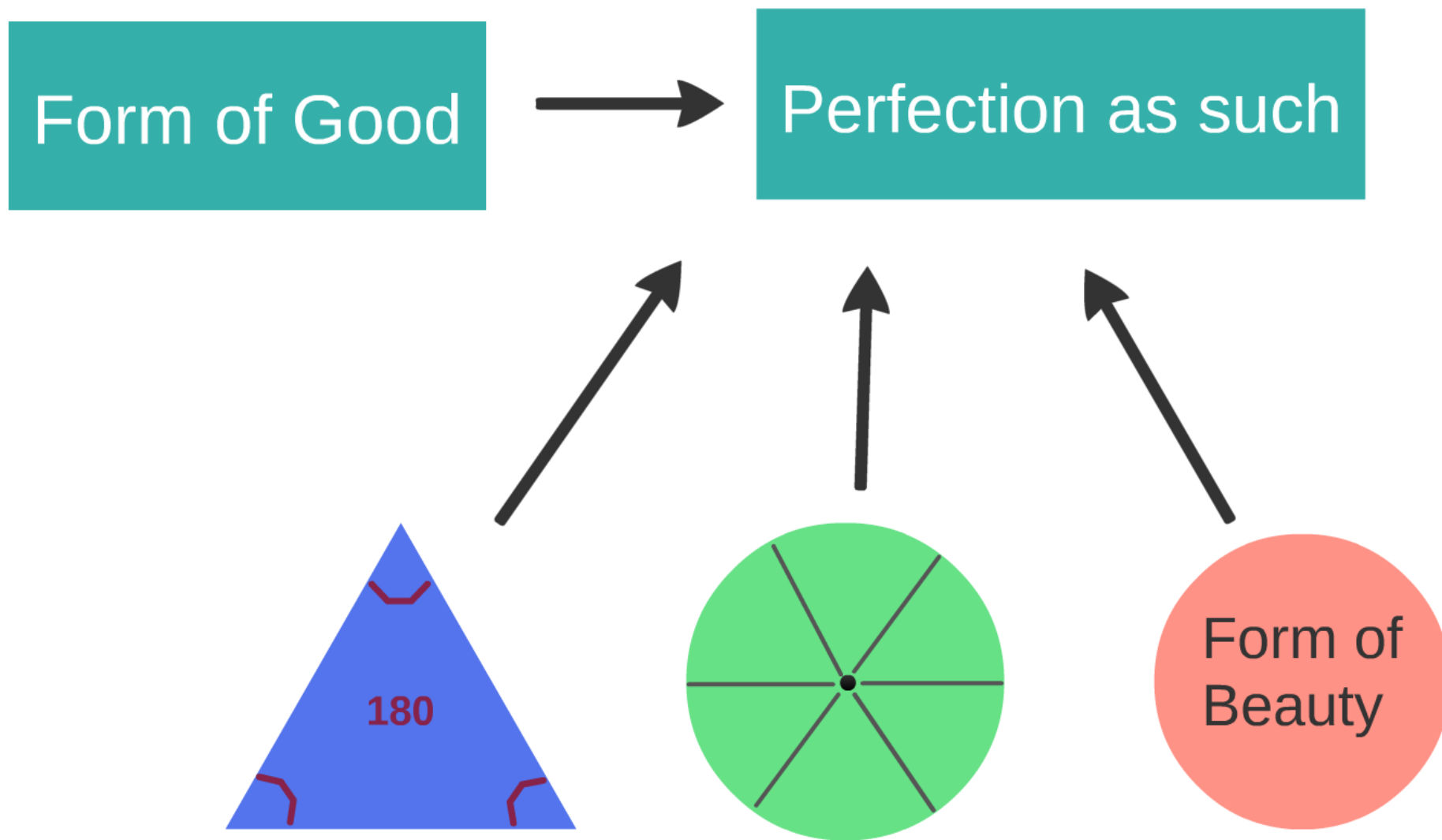
Form of Good

Mind

Needs truth to have knowledge
--from Form of Good

Objects of knowledge owe "their
existence and being" to the form
of the good (509b)

Miller, Mitch. "Beginning the 'Longer Way.'" *The Cambridge Companion to Plato's Republic*, edited by G.R.F. Ferrari, Cambridge UP, 2007, pp. 310-344.



Plato's Metaphysics

more
real

invisible/
intelligible

visible/
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less
real

A



D



C



E



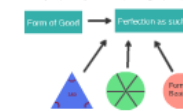
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Other Forms

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Outside
cave



Inside
cave

Bk 6, 507b p. 202

Cave

What cave represents

Plato's Epistemology

<p>Sun: Form of the Good</p>  <p>Other Forms</p> 	<p>Outside cave</p>	<p>Dialectics: through discussion, "arrive through reason at the being of each thing itself" (532a, p. 227)</p> <p>go beyond assumptions to find "first principle of everything" (511b, p. 207)</p>	<p>Understanding</p>	<p>invisible/ intelligible</p>
<p>imitations of forms in words and images</p> <p>e.g., drawings of triangles (Bk 6, 510e, p. 206)</p>		<p>Mathematical sciences: arithmetic, geometry, harmonics</p> <p>Use "images" to help understand (510e); start w/ unquestioned hypotheses (510b)</p>	<p>Thought</p>	
<p>Fire: sun in visible realm Puppets: physical objects, natural & manufactured</p> <p>Bk 6, 510a, p. 206)</p>	<p>Inside cave</p>	<p>Experience in physical realm: war & politics (539e, p. 236)</p>	<p>Belief</p>	<p>visible/ sensible</p>
<p>images, reflections, paintings, poetry</p> <p>(Bk 6, 510a, p. 205)</p>		<p>Early education in music and poetry</p>	<p>Imagination</p>	
<p>What cave represents</p>		<p>Education of philosophers</p> <p>Books 6 & 7</p>	<p>Levels of cognition</p> <p>Bk 6, 511d-e, p. 207</p>	

Knowledge and the Forms

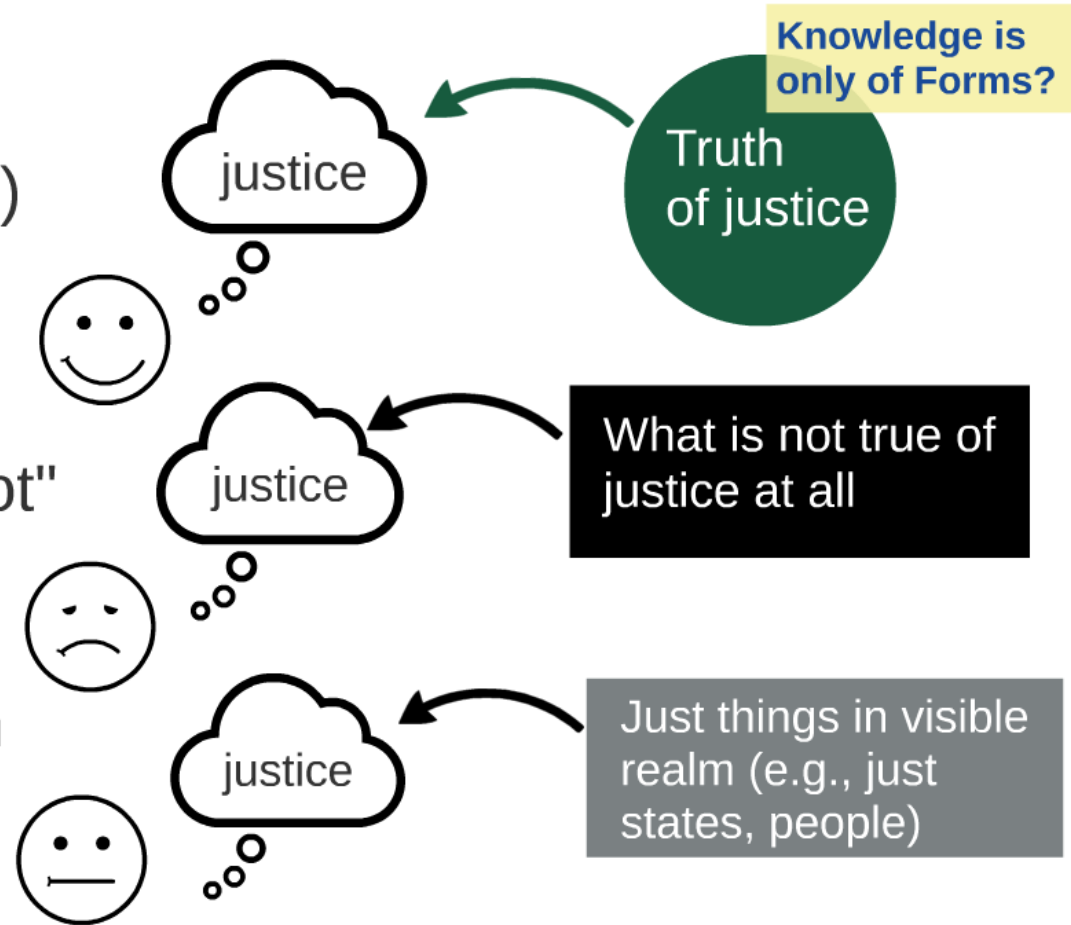
Knowledge:

deals with "what is" (477a, p. 170)

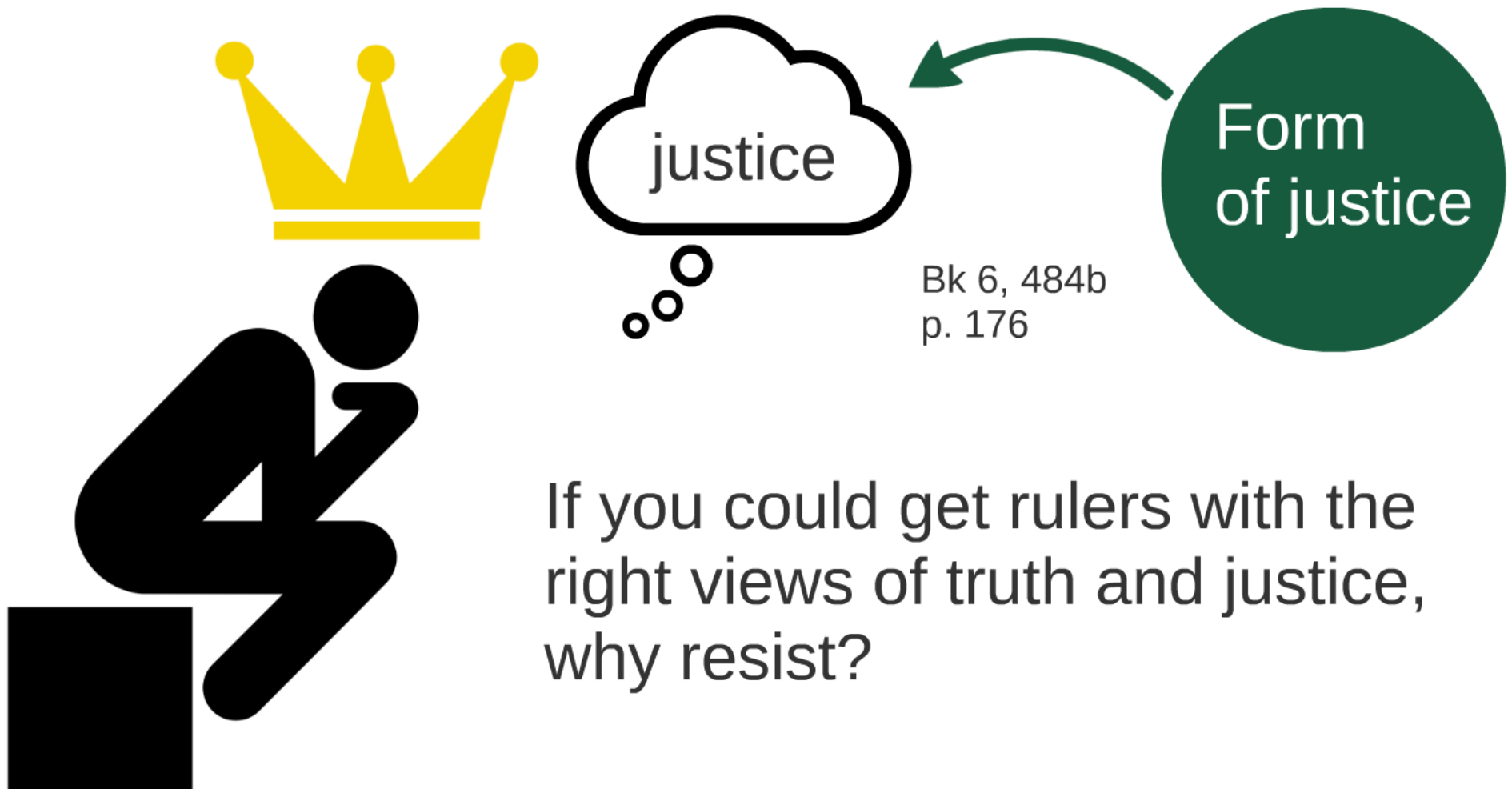
Ignorance:

deals with "what is not"

Belief: deals with things between
"what is not and what purely is"
(479d, p. 174)



Power, Knowledge, & (no need for) Resistance



Imitative Art in Bk 10

Dangerous artworks

Lack of
knowledge

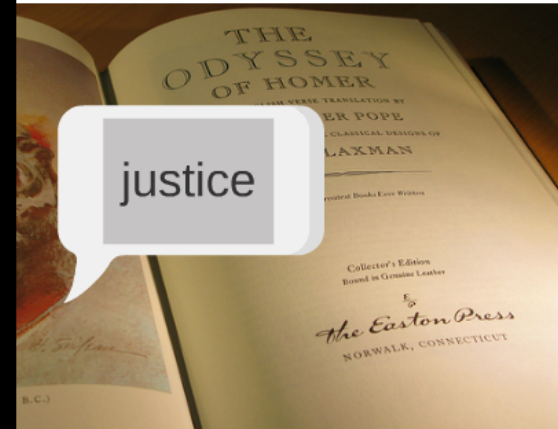
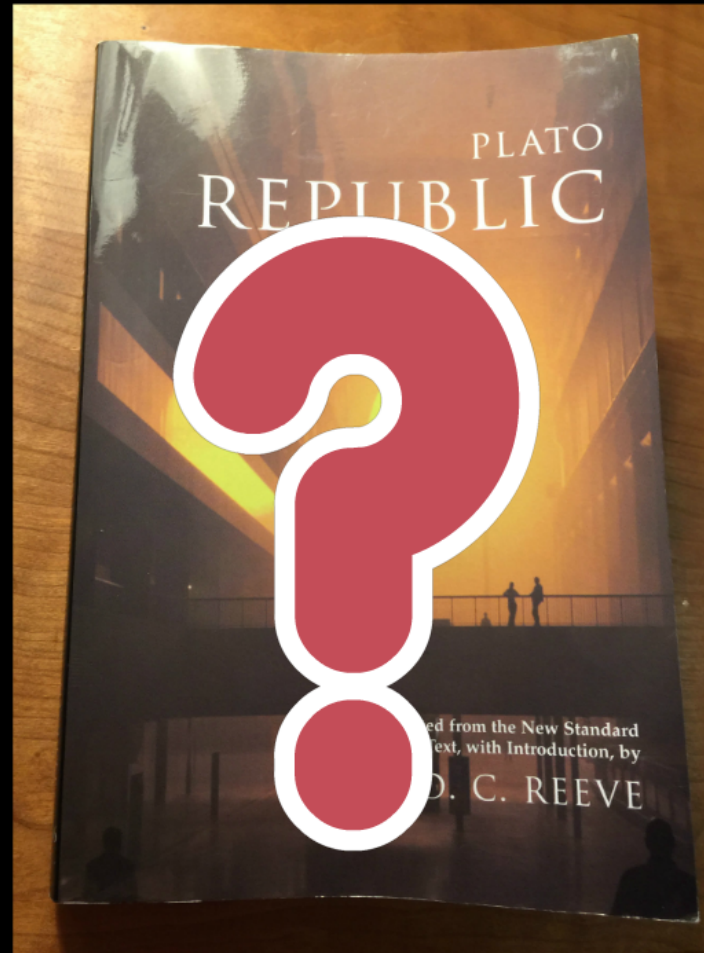
598e-602b
pp. 302-305

Appeal to
non-rational
parts of soul

602c-606d
pp. 306-311



Sir John Lavery
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https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Easton_Press_Edition_of_Homer's_Odyssey.jpg



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This text as giving appearance, not reality

Socrates says several times that he isn't giving them the full reality, only appearance

E.g.,

- Book 4, 435c-d, pp. 122
- Book 7, 533a, p. 228

What, then, might this text be able to do, and for whom?

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Plato, Republic, lecture 2

John Ono, History & Philosophy, Fall 2016
Christina Mercurio (Philosophy)



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Book 2, 357b-d, p. 36

Q&A with Thomas
Anshu on this

Appearance & Reality



Appearance & Reality re: Justice

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how you *look* on the outside, to others



Order of lives, from best to worst
(353a-362c, pp. 37-45)
→ Best: the original, appearance
→ Middle: the just, superior just
→ Worst: the just, superior unjust

Appearance/reality in the cave



More appearance vs reality



"What about someone who follows in himself at things, but does not believe in the truth of the good? If the person he is living in a dream, or is he sane?" (Book 5, 475c, p. 505)

Plato's Metaphysics		Plato's Epistemology	
more real		Diakratic: Beyond the visible, to the truth of the matter at the heart of each thing itself (511a, p. 205)	understanding
real		Epistemic: knowledge as the 'first principle of everything' (511a, p. 205)	thought
less real		Existential: knowledge as the 'first principle of everything' (511a, p. 205)	belief
less real		Existential: knowledge as the 'first principle of everything' (511a, p. 205)	imagination

Imitative Art in Bk 10

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Knowledge and the Forms

Knowledge: deals with "what is" (477a, p. 170)

Ignorance: deals with "what is not" (477b, p. 170)

Belief: deals with things between "what is not and what purely is" (477c, p. 174)



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