



# PLATO: The cave

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PL210

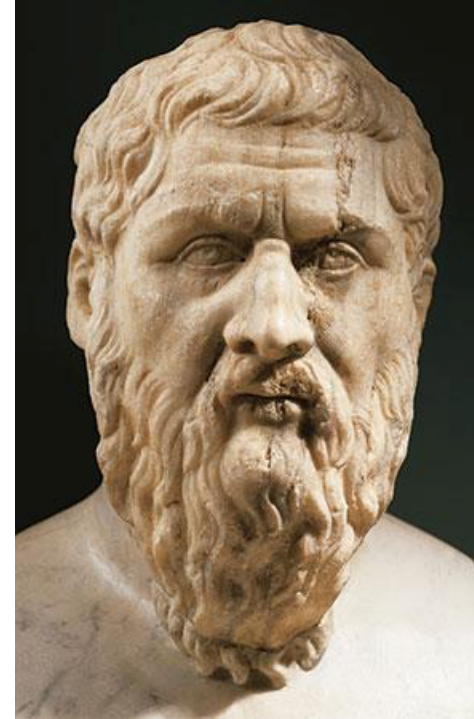
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# PLATO



- Philosopher in Ancient Greece and founder of the Academy in Athens
- He was the innovator of the written dialogue and dialectic forms of philosophy

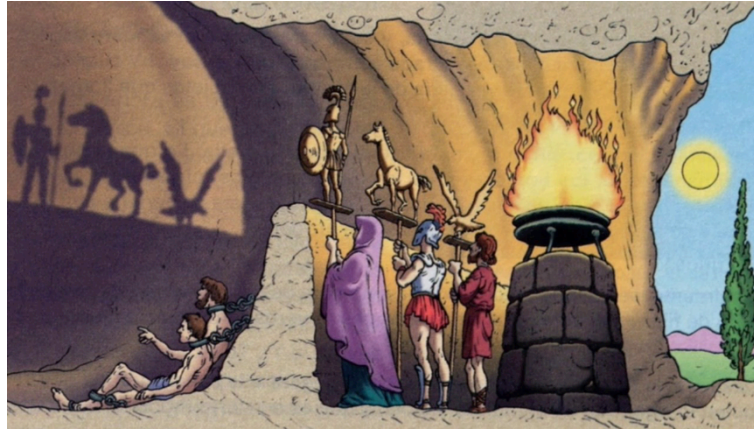


# Allegory of the Cave



# The Cave





*“He who sees with his eyes is blind”*

Knowledge gained through the senses is no more than opinion and that, in order to have real knowledge, we must gain it through philosophical reasoning.

Physical objects and events are “shadows” of their perfect forms

## THE CAVE

Represents people who believe knowledge comes from what we see and hear in the world

## THE SHADOWS

Represents the perceptions of those who believe empirical evidence ensures knowledge

## THE GAME

Represents how people believe that one person can be “knowledgeable” of the empirical world.

It is ridiculous to admire someone like that

## THE ESCAPE

The escaped prisoner represents the Philosopher

He seeks knowledge outside the cave and outside the senses

The Sun represents philosophical truth and knowledge

...THE RETURN



  
The Allegory of the Cave



connects with Plato's

Political Ideology

Only people who get out of the cave and see the goodness are fit to rule





# "Philosopher-king"

The wise person who accepts the power thrust upon him by the people who are wise enough to choose a good master.







# MATRIX

- Matrix represents the shadows, not reality
- Only those chosen get to see the real world
- It takes courage to go out
- What we see does not exist, it is only an illusion
- Our eyes are not used to reality



Totalitarian  
Regime

## THE CAVE IN REAL LIFE

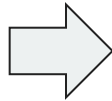


Censorship

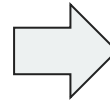


Rebellion


Chains, fixed  
positions, no  
free will



Shadows



Leave the  
cave



To what extent does the right to access knowledge benefit people?

How to differentiate between a philosopher, capable of ruling, from someone twisting the reality outside the cave?

According to Plato why should the philosopher-kings rule?



Is ignorance bliss?

Why should one aim to get out of the cave if the rest of the world will not follow?

How to succeed in a truth seeking journey if the majority remains living in a lie?