

## Background

- Plato was one of the two greatest Greek philosophers
- writing down of ideas
- Student of Socrates
- Aristotle was the other great Greek philosopher
- influence us even now

## reaction against Sophists

- Plato is for absolutes
- absolutes do not change and can be understood by humans
- reason our way to answers
- one can understand the nature of cosmos and what we're doing here anyways
- essentially treated Greek Gods as fables
- Socrates started this ^^
- lived in a time of conflict
- despair, political turmoil
- important not to abandon philosophy, ideas or art in the time of turmoil

## Socrates

- we only know about Socrates from Plato and other students
  - Socrates was a generation older than Plato
- ### Oracle of Apollo at Delphi
- story about Socrates and the Oracle of Apollo at Delphi
  - The Oracle tells you what the God wants you to do.
    - take a young girl who would be supposed to be an Oracle and she would get toked on herbs and say weird things.
  - Socrates was the wisest man in Athens
  - "asking people, leaving questions"

### Socratic method

- Grove of "Academe"
- row of trees everyone sat around and ask questions
- Symposia

### Self-examination

- an unexamined life is not worth living
- you have to have your life directed by thoughtful examination

- challenges everyone

### Relationships of virtue and knowledge

- think your way to be a good person

- think yourself to be virtue
- think and understand all the important issues

#### Accusations, trial and death

Socrates

- he was accused of treason (leading Athenians away)
- brought before the assembly and was voted guilty
- didn't want to be exiled or stop talking about philosophy
- forced to drink poison to kill himself
- "Humans should not fear death"
- don't commit suicide but if death is handed to you take it.

#### Plato's Apology

- not in the sense of "I'm sorry"
- explains how he came to be put to death
- tyranny to the authority

#### Plato's moral and metaphysical philosophy

- Moral and metaphysical
- you have to go on past the physical life

#### Archetypes

- ideal of justice
- can decide if an ideal is just or not
- a whole bunch of ideals out there
- the real world was the real world of the archetypes
- the real world we see around us is not the real type it only

reflects the archetypes

#### World of Becoming vs. World of Being

- World of Becoming is always changing.
- cant step in the same river twice
- World of the Being is the absolute world
- never changes
- (justice, goodness, beauty)

#### 3 parts of the soul

your soul begins and starts in the World of being

1. essence
2. animal
3. intellect

-your soul is the most important part of you

#### Good Knowledge and virtue

-in order to reach knowledge and goodness you have to figure out what are those absolutes

-if goodness is an absolute you have to figure it out and reach it

- things do not change
- we knew archetypes before we were born
- we still remember the archetype "chair" even though they are all different
- evil is present in the absent of goodness

### Plato's political philosophy

Distrust of Democracy born of Athenian experience

- Republic is something is where something good in the public
- what is being done for their benefit even though they didn't ask for it
- democracy means the people vote
- Plato didn't trust Democracy
- ideal form of government
  - make people happy, good, philosophers

### Philosopher King

- To be a philosopher king
  - you need to be a philosopher and know the archetypes
- whole purpose in life is to look for the good in life
- stimulates why it's a republic
- goodness and just would be followed in his new government
  - philosopher kings were thought of as guardians and had no money no family just philosophy
- no one had a professional military but the auxiliary would be a professional military for this government
  - then they had the rest of the people
  - women could be guardians or auxiliaries if they would give up family and children

### Allegory of the Cave

you're locked in a cave and you can't see anything except what's in front of you

you can see a fire and flickering lights with shadows of people dancing

you don't actually see the fire of people dancing that's just what you think it is

we see the shadows we don't see the archetypes

### Legacy