

The Ultimate Plato vs. Aristotle Study Guide

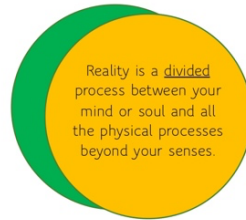
PLATO

- **What is the name Plato used to describe his universals - the general representation of each and everything? How about everyday objects?**
 - The Forms
 - The Forms are perfect versions of all things. They do not exist on Earth. We come to know what they are through reasoning **AND NOT EXPERIENCED THROUGH THE SENSES!**
 - The Particulars
 - Everyday objects we interact with.
- **Plato's Cave, explained.**
 - The Allegory of the Cave
 - It's an allegory about how we come to learn the nature of "the Forms" from particulars. How we come learn about reality according to Plato.
 - The Shadows
 - Is a metaphor for how normal people see everyday objects (particulars). We see them as "shadows" of their possibility; of what they really are.
 - The Outside (the Sunlight)
 - Escaping the cave is Plato's metaphor for how we come close to knowing or remembering **the Forms**.
- **Plato's Beliefs Are Ultimately Based on the Following**
 - Knowledge is real
 - However, it's just **NOT EXPERIENCED THROUGH THE SENSES!**
 - Particulars change in our senses and therefore our senses deceive us. Universals (the Forms) are unchangeable because they need to serve as the model or blueprint.
 - Mathematics, specifically Geometry, was the most essential and therefore common form.
 - We recollect the knowledge from our soul's reincarnate journey through the Platonic Heaven.
- **Plato's Dualism**
 - **Plato's two realities are separated by the realms of the forms—in the platonic heaven, and the realm of the particulars—on earth.**

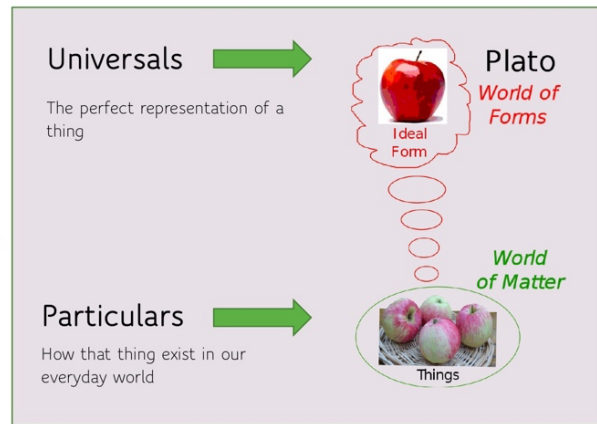
Review

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Dualism



Platonic Dualism

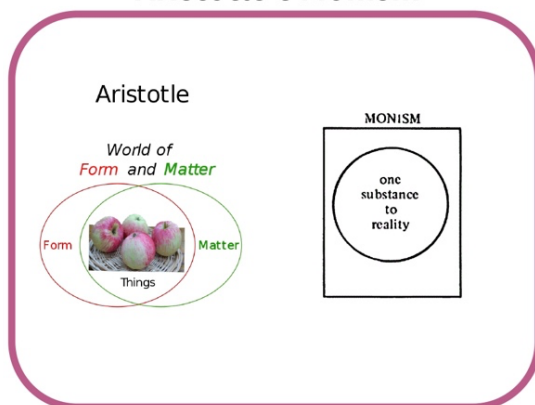


- **Plato started the tradition of Rationalism**—the idea that we come to know what real knowledge is through pure reasoning and not our senses.

ARISTOTLE

- **Our senses could give us knowledge**
 - We come to know the world with uncommitted universals. Some Philosophers make the claim that Aristotle did not believe in Universals at all and therefore, to Aristotle, there are only particulars.
- **Aristotle was a Monist**
 - Only one reality which was composed only of physical things.
 - Kind of the first to organize a method that later on would become the scientific method.

Aristotle's Monism



- **Aristotle, unlike Plato, believed in true change.**
 - Argued that the forms were not real because if they were...
 - They would not make sense in accordance with a problem in Plato's ideas.
 - Aristotle noticed there was something wrong about the Forms.
 - If Plato was right, then there would be a form of a form of anything.
- **The Third Man Argument**
 - Aristotle broke from Plato when he realized that forms must have properties and that those properties also have to have forms in the platonic heaven. If this is true, they would go on infinitely and make the original forms imperfect. This is a problem for Plato's perfect world.