Unit 18 - Homework 2: Plato's *Meno* Dialogue (3) — Meno's Paradox

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According to Meno, nobody ever seeks to know what they *already* know, and nobody ever seeks to know what they *don't* already know. In order to answer the following questions about Meno's Paradox, read page 16 in Unit 18.

1. According to Meno, nobody ever seeks to know what they *already* know.
   Why did he think so?

2. According to Meno, nobody ever seeks to know what they *don't* already know.
   Why did he think so?

3. In order to resolve Meno's Paradox, Socrates proposed the Recollection Theory, which is an epistemological theory about ἀνάμνησις (recollection/remembrance/reminiscence). What is the Recollection Theory?

4. At the end of Book 10 of Plato's *Republic*, Socrates told the myth of Er (ο μύθος του Ἠρός). (See pages 50–52 in Unit 13.)

   (i) How might his the Myth of Er have inspired the Recollection Theory?

   (ii) By prefixing the privative affix «ἀ-» ("un-") to the substantive noun «λήθη» ("forgetfulness"), we get the substantive noun «ἀλήθεια» ("truth"). Accordingly, what is another way that the word «ἀλήθεια» can be translated?

5. According to Meno, nobody ever seeks to know what they *already* know. Yet according to Socrates, why might somebody *seek* to know what they *already* know?