Chapter 19 - Assignment 8: Plato's *Meno* Dialogue— [3]

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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, see page 17 in Chapter 19.

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 *anamnesis* (ἀνάμνησις): recollection, remembrance, or 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 Chapter 14.)

   (i) How might the Myth of Er have inspired the Recollection Theory? (Hint: At the very end of the myth, consider how the souls in the Plain of Forgetfulness drink from the River of Carelessness, and think about the other name for that river.)

   (ii) By prefixing the privative affix «ἀ-» ("un-") to the substantive noun «λήθη» ("forgetfulness"), we get the substantive noun «ἀλήθεια» ("truth"). Accordingly, what is the most literal translation of the word «ἀλήθεια»?

5. OPTIONAL: How might the Recollection Theory resolve Meno's Paradox?