

# ANCIENT GREEK PHILOSOPHY

INSTRUCTOR | Edward Tingley, PhD

## OUTLINE OF SECTION 5 PLATO

LESSON 2 **The cave & the ascent: the *Republic*** 74 minutes

θεωρία

*theōría*

a sight or  
spectacle

εἰκῶν

*eikon*

image

### A | Plato's cave

- 1 | A question about man's nature: enlightened, or unenlightened? 00:36
- 2 | An allegory of reality: the 'appearance' of things 2:03
- 3 | Discovering invisible reality 8:07
- 4 | The *ascent* to what is most real 9:01
- 5 | The "error" of appearance: not the mind contradicting the senses but the mind correcting the mind 14:37

### B | The ascent of the soul to reality

- 1 | Earthly things as *imperfect representations* of heavenly ideas 20:06
- 2 | Why ascend? – the *perfections* knowable by understanding 27:11

PROPOSITION **26** IT IS BECAUSE **THINGS IN THE WORLD REPRESENT IDEAS** THAT WE HAVE **ACCESS**, THROUGH THE MIND (BUT WITH EFFORT), TO THE **PERFECTION** THAT BELONGS TO THE IDEAL REALM – TO **TRUE GOODS** (LIKE ACTUAL **JUSTICE**, THINGS WE NOW VALUE & SUPPOSE WE HAVE BUT MAY NOT HAVE) & TO **THE GOOD** (THE SOURCE OF ALL **BEAUTY, TRUTH, & GOOD**)

- 3 | *Ideal*, a further meaning of *idea* – & the meaning of 'ideal' debased 36:45

## C | The prisoner when released

- 1 | The pain of seeing 43:10
- 2 | Two steps to seeing: chains of *ignorance* & chains of *desire* 47:34
- 3 | The impoverished reality of matter & opinion 51:32

PROPOSITION **27** WE ARE **INCLINED** BY OUR NATURE TO TAKE **SHADOWS & IMAGES** (BOTH INHERENTLY SECONDARY) AS **REALITY** – TO ACCEPT BOTH THE **WORLD OF SENSE EXPERIENCE** & THAT OF **OPINIONS** (OUR OWN & THOSE WE ARE INVITED TO HOLD BY OTHERS) AS REAL **WITHOUT** MOVING TO **ENQUIRE** (TO HAVE CONTACT WITH REALITY FOR OURSELVES)

## D | The ‘beatific vision’

- 1 | Happiness in the ideal, the real 54:58

PROPOSITION **28** SEEING THIS ULTIMATE REALITY IS A **BEATIFIC VISION**, A VISION OF **BLESSEDNESS**:

IT IS A **VISION**: THE **GLORY** OF SUPREME REALITIES (JUSTICE, TRUTH, THE GOOD, AS THEY ARE) REGISTERED BY THE **NOUS** (EYES OF THE SOUL);

IT IS A VISION OF **BLESSEDNESS**: AN ENCOUNTER THAT DOES NOT SIMPLY IMPART KNOWLEDGE BUT **IS WISDOM**: I.E., AN **ACTIVE EXPERIENCE** OF AWE, LOVE, HAPPINESS, **RECEPTION OF** WHAT THE VISION **ENTAILS**

- 2 | *Theoria* (θεωρία): Platonic & Christian contemplation 1:05:13

## **WORKS CITED & FURTHER READING**

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