

## Plato

- Pupil of Socrates 427 B.C to 347 B.C
- Due to his knowledge he was named Plato. Established the academy of Philosophy on Greek hero "Academus"
- Philosophy, logic, metaphysics, spirits, epistemology etc. in each and every field.
- Complete system of philosophy on Politics, epistemology, ethics etc.
- Literary genius (Dialogue Version)

### **Theory of Knowledge (Epistemology)**

- How Plato see Knowledge?  
Begin from the debate of Heraclitus & Parmenides.

### **Heraclitus:**

- Our surroundings / environment are continuously changing.
- Whatever we see even mountains are under the process of change.
- "Even rivers are changing their way".
- So, Life is changing.
- If everything is changing then how we can define any phenomenon?
- How do we can understand?

### **Parmenides:**

- There is no changing. It is completely illusion to say that world/everything is changing.
- He applied (Deductive Reasoning).
- Changing is only.

What is?

What is not?

- It means things which are changing, will be disappeared after changing. So, it is useless to say that things are changing.
- We cannot accept the views of Parmenides that one thing we can accept “that what is stationary that only can be defined”.
- We can use it in term of philosophy as a **problem of universals**

“Everything in world is not exactly same trees, humans, any other substance”.

- So how one can predict that human/other things are same?
- The thing which is itself changing so how we can define that what it is? Even that is not stable.
- When every individual is different from each other so how one can define that? And also, that is changing and not matching each other.
- So, we can make category “These same things would be”

### **Example Cats/Horse**

- Plato tried to solve this problem.
- Plato went to his teacher Socrates teachings (either things are true or wrong). That’s come because of contradiction to [Sophist views].
- So, Plato applied this opinion to solve the debate between “**Parmenides and Heraclitus**”.
- Plato viewed that the things we classified in same way actually these are like ideas so these ideas are universal. On the basis of these universals, these things are made for example if someone want to make Chair
- So, you have naturally ideas in your mind through that structure we made things. For example, these ideas are not in one’s mind but these ideas belong to ideal world.

- So, on the basis of Axiomatic truth, there must be truth behind the ideas of the world so that we can call that truth. So, there should be ideas/structure that should not be changed.
- So as the structure/ideas of horse is that should be like mathematic axiomatic truth whatever shape of horse is that should be called horse.

These ideas are not in this world but these are in ideal world. That is Parmendonian World that cannot be changed.

- So, on the basis of that (ideal world) we see the matters (environment) which is Heraclitan world which is changing that is connected with that ideal.
- Parmenides                      Ideas will be same.
- Heraclitus (in which Axiomatic truth)                      Structure would be different.

Plato made two worlds while explaining his thought.

- World of Forms (Mind)                      which is Static.
- World of Matter (Body)                      which is always changing.
- Plato's says knowledge which we know, which our soul, mind knows can be understood through our soul.
- How these ideas are known through our mind/soul?

### **How soul understand this?**

- Plato views that before our birth our soul was living in ideal world. So, our souls or mind knows the ideal world from that time. When we born our soul forget those ideas. So, when we born and observed the concrete things of this world then our soul recognized the things that it was presented in ideal world.
- Knowledge is not new thing which came in our mind rather this knowledge is recollection of remembrance which our soul knows before our birth.

- It means that knowledge is connected with the dialectic of Socratics. Because, Socratics dialectic can only prominent that knowledge which is already built in.
- Knowledge remembrance can be done though asking questions.
- Plato's dualism had good connection with Socrates dialectic.
- Moreover, Plato argued that human soul wants to go back to that ideal world. That is why Socrates drunk Poison/Toxic.
- So, soul wants to get/connect knowledge of that ideal world.
- Getting new knowledge is very attractive to soul. Happiness or virtue is knowledge.

Subject:

Social Thought

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