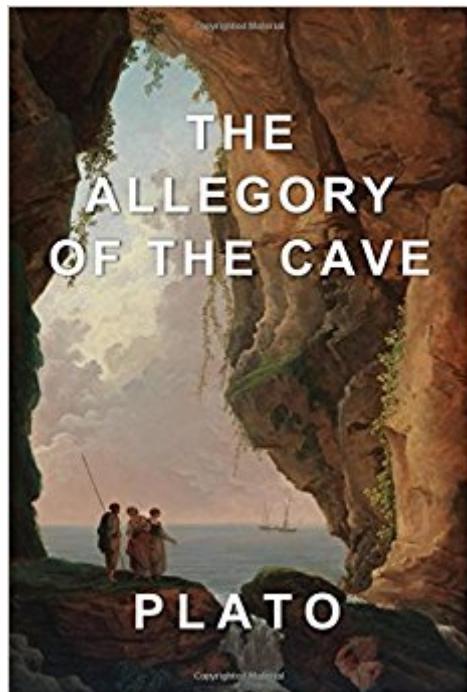


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The Allegory Of The Cave



Synopsis

The Allegory of the Cave, or Plato's Cave, was presented by the Greek philosopher Plato in his work Republic (514a–520a) to compare "the effect of education (Greek: τὸ εἴδεν) and the lack of it on our nature". It is written as a dialogue between Plato's brother Glaucon and his mentor Socrates, narrated by the latter. The allegory is presented after the analogy of the sun (508b–509c) and the analogy of the divided line (509d–511e). All three are characterized in relation to dialectic at the end of Books VII and VIII (531d–534e). Plato has Socrates describe a group of people who have lived chained to the wall of a cave all of their lives, facing a blank wall. The people watch shadows projected on the wall from objects passing in front of a fire behind them, and give names to these shadows. The shadows are the prisoners' reality. Socrates explains how the philosopher is like a prisoner who is freed from the cave and comes to understand that the shadows on the wall are not reality at all, for he can perceive the true form of reality rather than the manufactured reality that is the shadows seen by the prisoners. The inmates of this place do not even desire to leave their prison; for they know no better life. The prisoners manage to break their bonds one day, and discover that their reality was not what they thought it was. They discovered the sun, which Plato uses as an analogy for the fire that man cannot see behind. Like the fire that cast light on the walls of the cave, the human condition is forever bound to the impressions that are received through the senses. Even if these interpretations (or, in Kantian terminology, intuitions) are an absurd misrepresentation of reality, we cannot somehow break free from the bonds of our human condition - we cannot free ourselves from phenomenal state just as the prisoners could not free themselves from their chains. If, however, we were to miraculously escape our bondage, we would find a world that we could not understand - the sun is incomprehensible for someone who has never seen it. In other words, we would encounter another "realm", a place incomprehensible because, theoretically, it is the source of a higher reality than the one we have always known; it is the realm of pure Form, pure fact. Socrates remarks that this allegory can be paired with previous writings, namely the analogy of the sun and the analogy of the divided line.

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Customer Reviews

Plato --This text refers to an alternate Paperback edition.

Put a masterpiece on your Kindle. Plato's The Allegory of the Cave brings you Glaucon, Socrates, and Plato in discourse as fresh as when the book was written. Even if you're not a student of Plato, you should read this, so you'll understand why so many treasure it. Sit at the feet of the masters, and be increased. Comes complete with an Image Gallery. An extraordinary chance to get this dialogue on your Kindle

I am disappointed by the deceitful naming of this book as 'illustrated', when all it has is a bunch of classic paintings piled together at the end of the book. When I see 'Illustrated' edition in the title, I expect the text itself to be accompanied by contextual illustrations, not just a bunch of Googled paintings relating to 'Plato', attached at the end of the book.

A Classic that i read in college and now at twice my age, i find it more fascinating!!!!

It's interesting that all the reviews are dated around the same few days, all say about the exact same thing, and none comment on the content of the book.

This is a not to miss piece to enhance your studies on Plato and Socrates. Rich in dialogue to make you feel as though you are transferred to an era hearing it from the masters. A great gift for those wanting to expand their research in philosophy. The illustrations were an added bonus.

Nothing has changed about human awareness in the past 1,000 years.

A very stunning and amazing read! Plato's Allegory of the Cave is by far one of the most elegant and important metaphors in Western philosophy, this is just indisputable! This is a must read. Al-Khemet Book Club Jan 2016

I got this book as a gift from a friend who knows I collect masterworks. I love anything about the great philosopher, Plato. The awesome illustrations in the back are an added bonus. I highly recommend for anyone who loves the classics.

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