

Finally, or thought,
the mathematical
objects. then,

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Finally, I will explain the cave allegory. A group of captives are chained to a dark cave for their entire lives. All they can see are the shadows of some figurines carried by people who pass in front of a fire behind the captives. These shadows are their entire world. Now, let's suppose that somehow one of these captives was freed from his chains or was forcefully dragged to the outside. First, he would see figurines making the shadows he saw his whole life. Then he would see the flame.

When he exits the cave, he would be blinded by sun light at first, but when his eyes finally adapt to it, he would see natural objects and their shadows and even the sun itself. If we take the first two allegories, we will reach to a special interpretation of this final allegory. This whole event can be seen as a philosophical journey leading to a philosophical awakening.

The movement towards the outside of the cave can be considered the climbing the ladder of the divided line and going from physical sun to the good for the allegory of the sun. At first, all that the captive knew was shadows of artificial things, this can be thought as the eikasia part of the divided line. Then he sees the figurines themselves, which would be the pistis. After this, he sees the fire that was burning behind the captives. This would be the physical sun from the sun allegory. When he goes outside, he sees the shadows of the real objects and this would be the dianoia or thought, the mathematical objects. Then, he sees the physical objects themselves, which would be the noesis.

Finally, he sees the sun, which is the good from the sun allegory. To conclude, I will talk about Plato's view of philosophy and the mission of

the philosopher. Philosophy, for Plato, is about finding model, general definitions. Unlike the many, the philosopher seeks the essence of things and does not focus on neither attributes nor instances.

With the help of dialectics, the philosopher tries to achieve understanding and tries to uncover the first principle. For, Plato this ultimate understanding comes in the form of the good. After achieving understanding and finding the good, philosopher must share this knowledge like the cave captive who saw the outside world. This is the mission, the role of the philosopher. Like the captive who returns to his fellow captives, he must return to the many.

Like the captive, he must teach them what he learned and try to show them the gaps in their knowledge, the errors in their reasoning. He must show them that there is more to the world than the shadows of artificial things even if they see him as useless or ridicule him for his ideas. He must do this even if they turn against him and try to kill him. After all, he is not a sophist; he is not doing this for money. He's doing this for a higher pursuit, which is to discover the truth and teach it to others. The philosopher should follow the footsteps of Socrates. Like him, he must become like a gadfly, helping or rather annoying the people so that they can improve.