

Why does socrates,  
according to plato's  
think that knowledge  
of the 'form of the ...

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Knowledge of the Form of the Good is the Highest Sort of Knowledge In a metaphor, Plato evoking Socrates, uses the sun to represent the origin of what he referred to as intellectual illumination. This knowledge, according to Plato is supposed to be the Form of the Good. Socrates states that the best, and indeed, the strongest source of light is the sun since its light makes it possible for people to discern objects clearly. Essentially, Socrates believes that without reference to any forms, people's attempts to understand things as they are become fruitless. Yet again, Plato notes that the Good makes every other universal intelligible, providing being to other forms as well (Ross 51). The Good in its entirety is beyond being and is the absolute measure by which justice can be measured. The philosopher notes that the Idea of the Good is knowledge's ultimate object. True knowledge in his view is conversant and seeks to investigate the nature of more perfect and purer patterns after which all created beings are modeled (Santas 47).

Socrates' argument that knowledge of the form of the good is the highest sort of knowledge is relevant considering the notion that true knowledge seeks not imperfect intelligences. As such when one understands the form of the good, they are in a better position to explain why things happen as they do. Furthermore, it may be established that beauty, equality, justice and truth and other good things come from the Form of the Good.

#### Works Cited

- Ross, William. *Platos Theory of Ideas*. Oxford University Press. 1951. Print.
- Santas, Gerasimos. *The Blackwell guides to Plato's Republic*. Blackwell Publishing Ltd. 2006. Print.

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