

Allegory of the cave essay



**ASSIGN
BUSTER**

Plato's Allegory of the Cave brings about many questions compared to Christianity.

He depicts a group of prisoners in a cave chained and unable to move. The only thing they can see is shadows cast upon the wall by their guards. The rationalism in this is very confusing but based on Christianity many of us are prisoners of the world we live in and are kept here by the others around us and are unable to see the truth of the word of Christ because of all the illusions of the perfect world we are shown every day. The true path to a great life is through Christ. Does the path leading out of the cave represent the path to God? Plato shows it as a path to the supreme Good which he represents with the sun.

He also states that the sun makes the prisoner who escapes turn away at first due to the brightness. "the light of the sun makes him turn his gaze away from it" (Srivastava, 5 Parg. 4). Could this be the light of God and how strong it is and the faith that it shows us is sometimes hard for us to accept. The prisoners are used to being in a dark cave. Is this what we live in until we find God? Could this be what Plato is showing us? I feel Plato is showing how we all get used to what is around us and seem to forget the real world and life we should be living in. Plato uses his Cave to show that the reality we are all used to and accustomed to is just a sham. It can often be a difficult journey to find God and have him in your life.

The chains can represent the evil that holds man back from the path to glory. We all like to believe we are good and the prisoners know no other reality and felt what they see is the truth. They cannot accept that there is

something better than the life they live. These evils are what we meant to avoid and to escape from evil. I personally view the prisoner as one who did escape evil and he seeks the greater glory. The bible states that " all have sinned and come short the glory of God" (Romans 3: 23). But we must all seek his favor and the path to God. I feel the prisoner did seek this out and just like Jesus was persecuted when he tried to share his new reality.

Many refuse to accept Gods word just as the prisoners in the cave are trapped and only know one reality. " These unfortunate people will naturally think that the shadows they perceive are the only world that exists; it is the only world they have ever experienced" (Nash pg. 2). Same as us many refuse to accept anything other than what they see now and do not seek out anything better. Plato could have been showing us that there is a God and that to believe in him we will be persecuted. Christians know that Jesus was persecuted for trying to show us the better life, a life living for God and only God. Plato's higher world could have been the heaven we seek.

The prisoner was shown the light the path to Glory. God gave us the will to choose and the prisoner chose to seek out what was down the path out of the cave. Many of us may need to crawl out of our cave and seek the path to God.