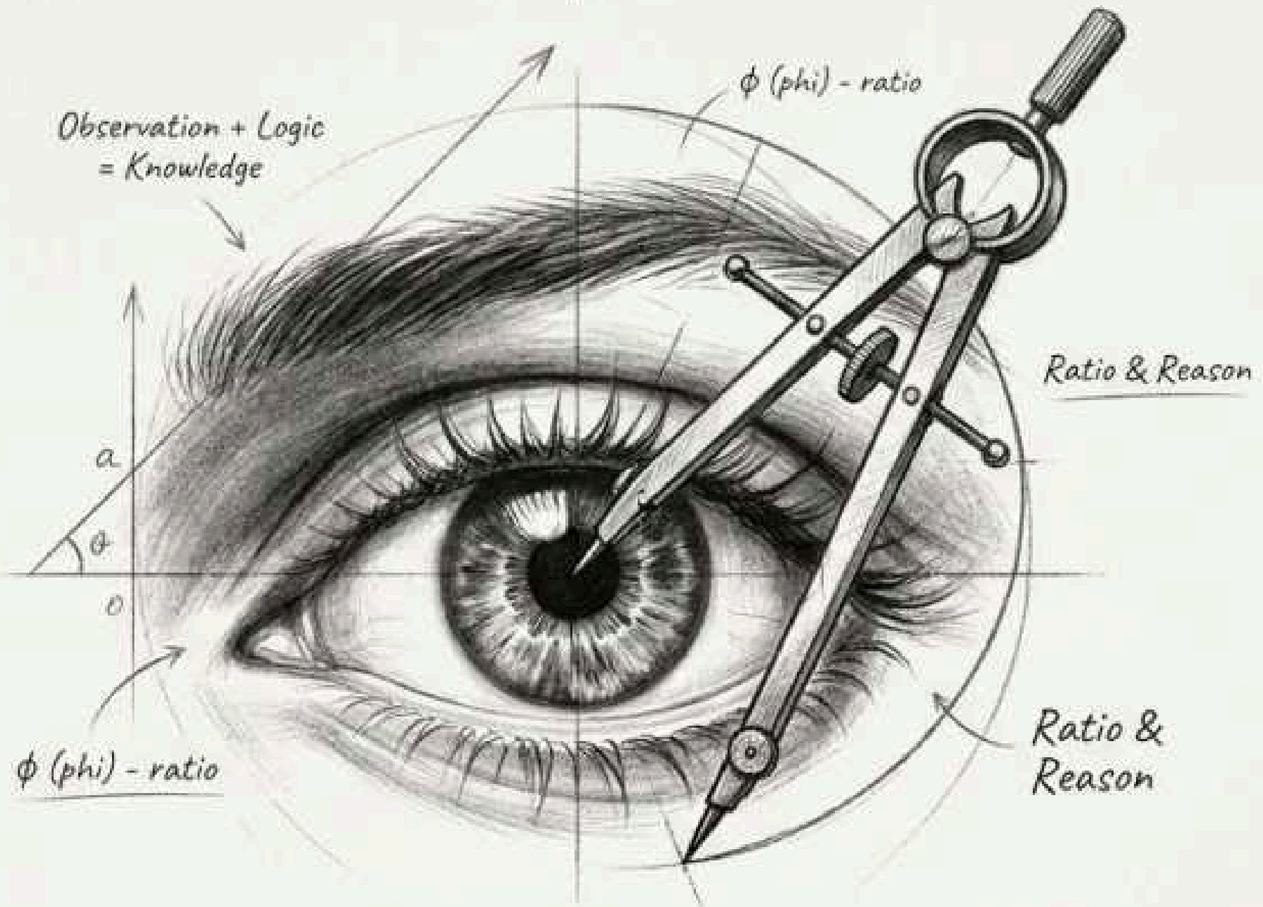
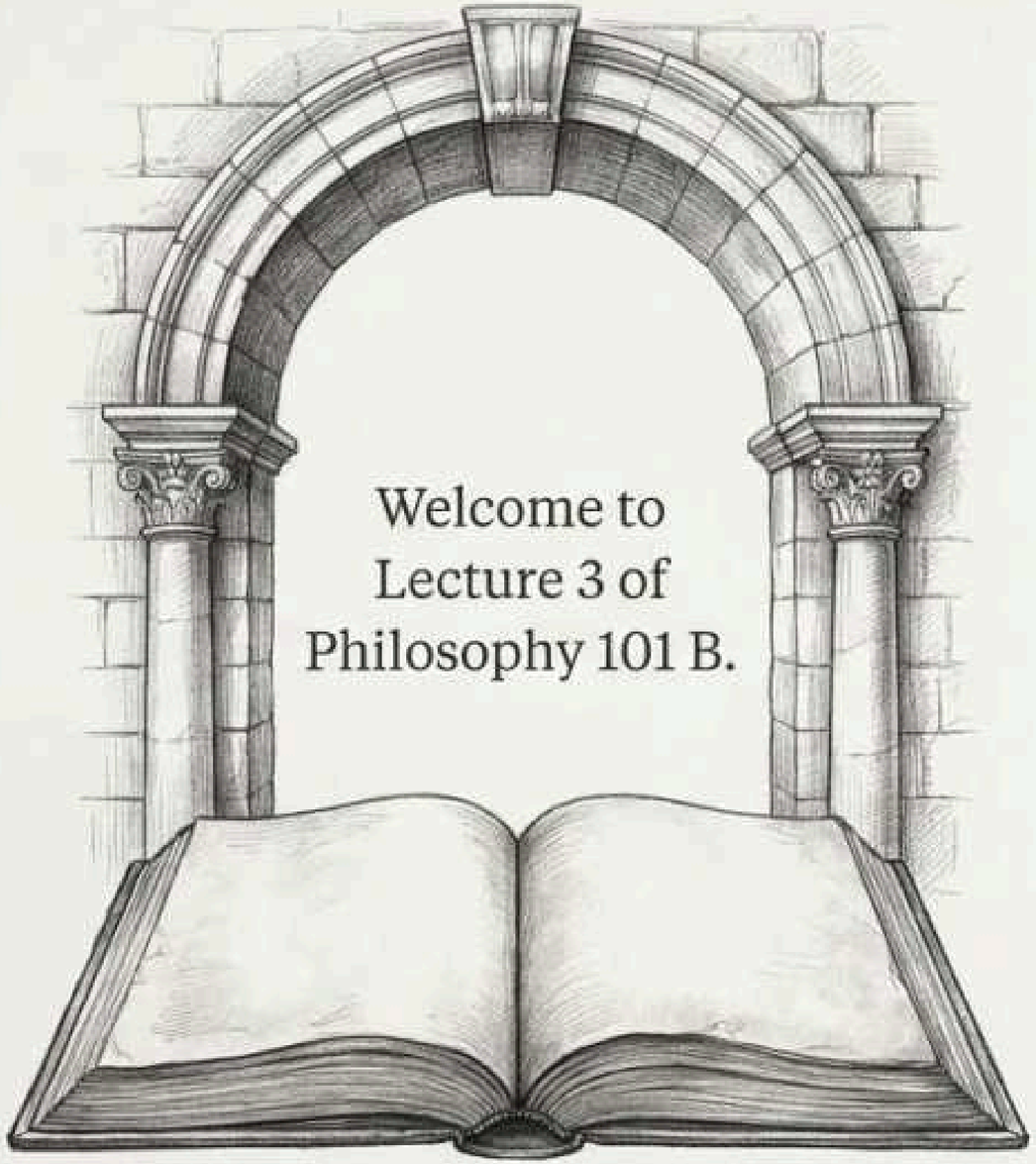


Epistemology: What Can We Know?

The study of knowledge, its limits, and the answers to skepticism.

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¶ 3.1



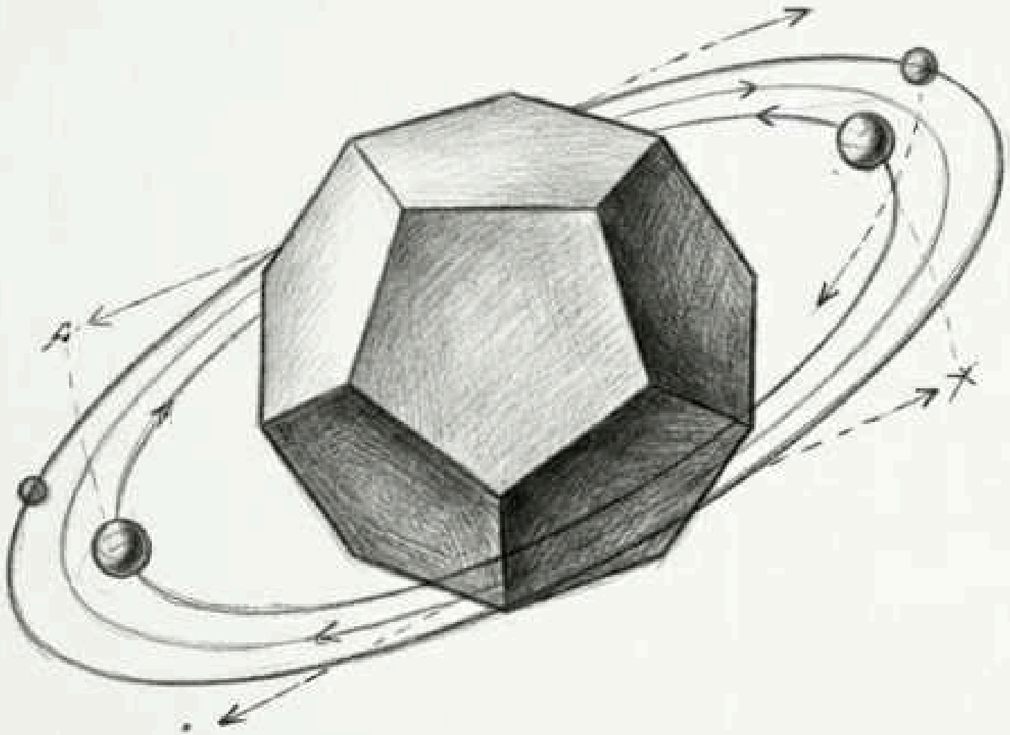
The Gateway to Epistemology

This course is free.

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¶ 3.2

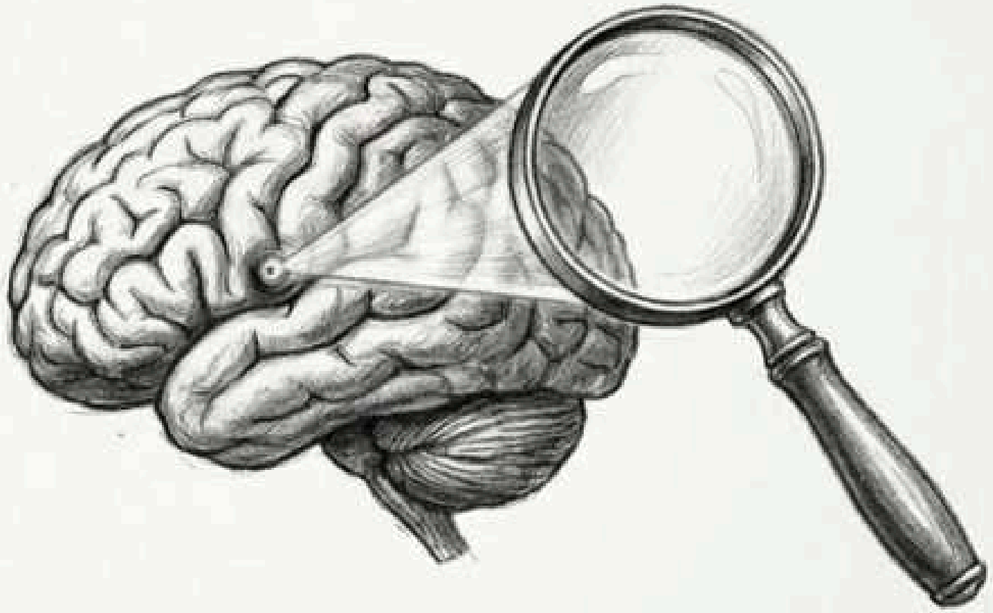
Metaphysics



What is real?

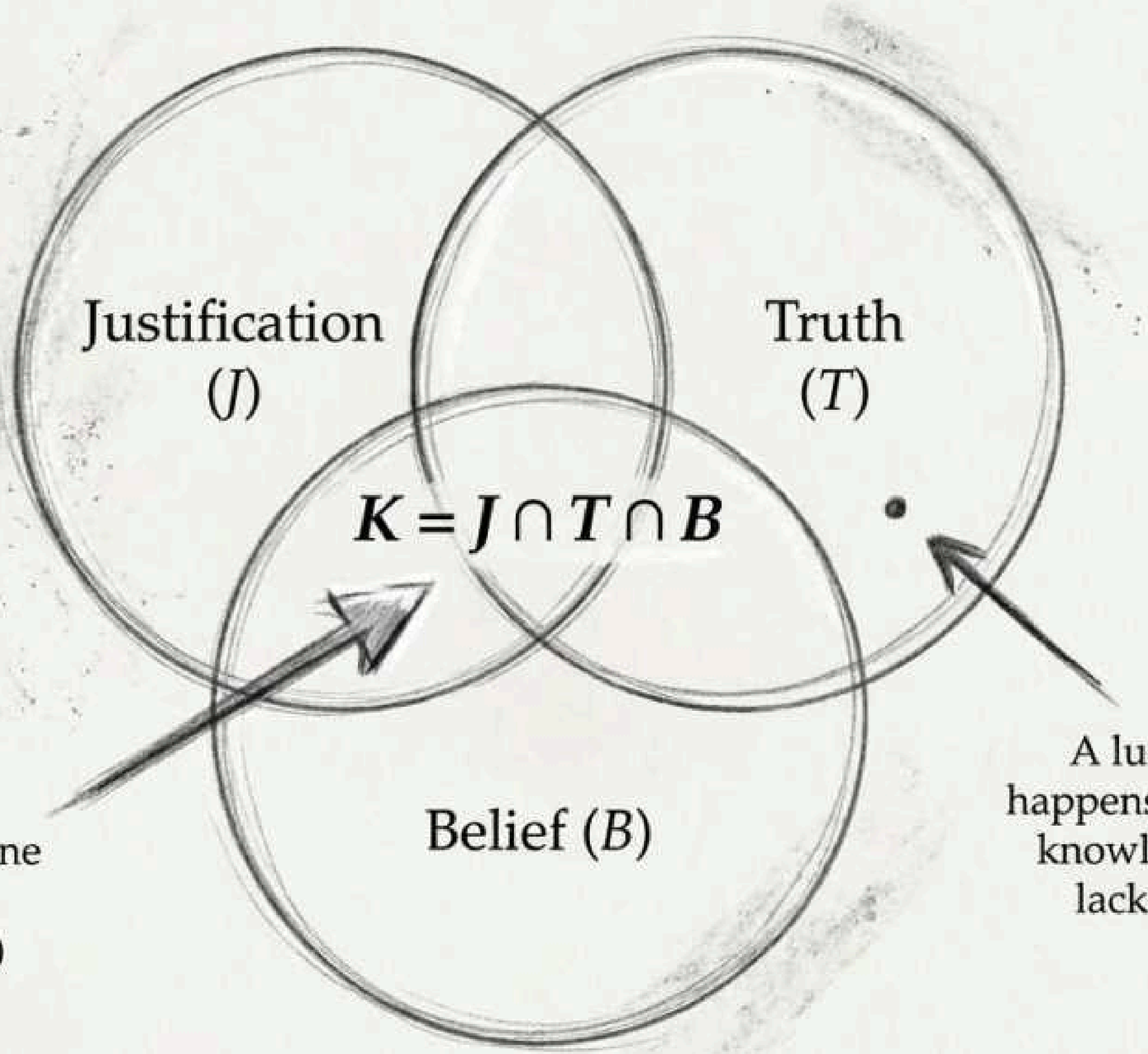
Epistemology

episteme = Greek for knowledge



How could we ever be sure?

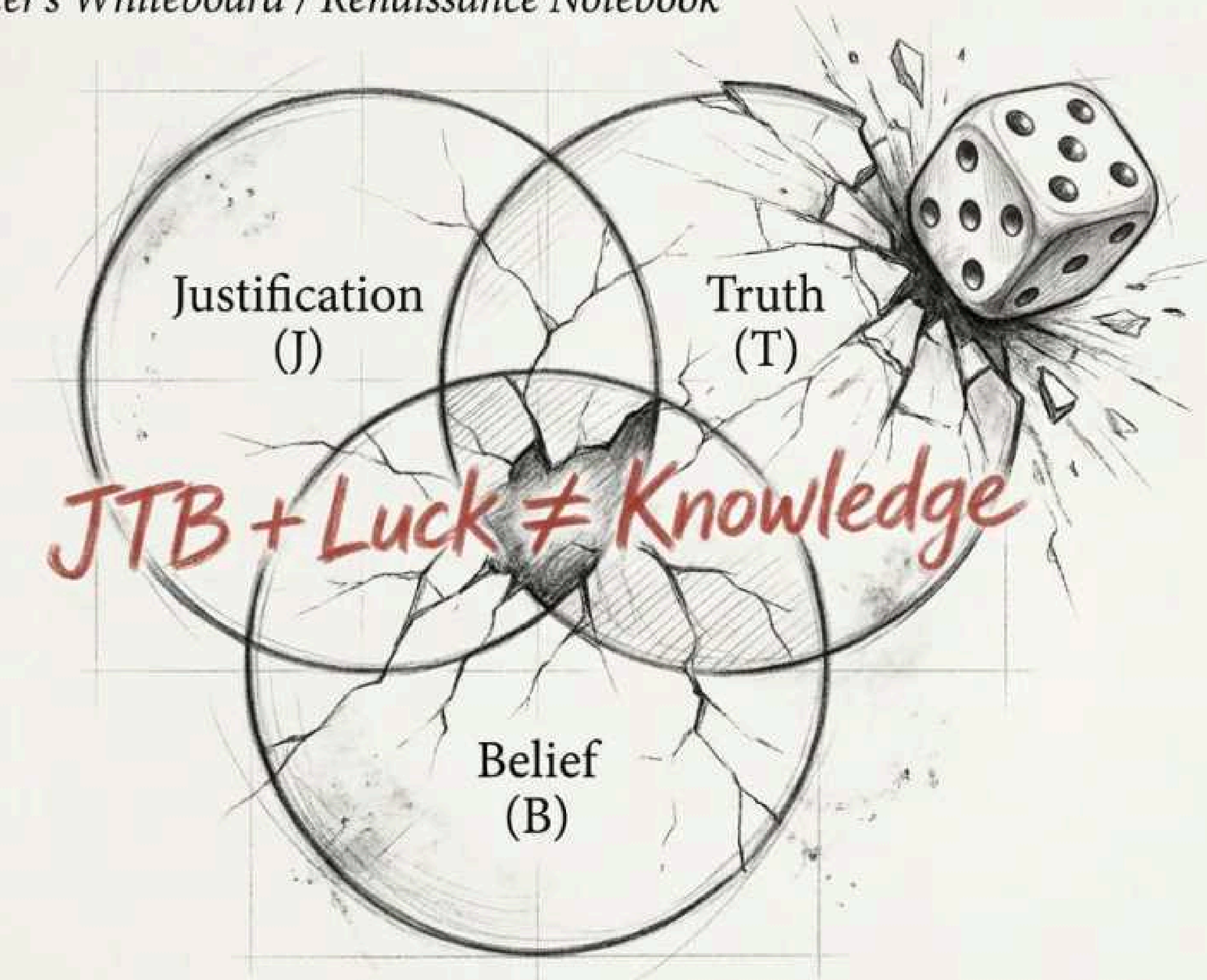
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The Classical Baseline
(Tracing back to
Plato's *Theaetetus*)

A lucky guess that
happens to be right is not
knowledge, because it
lacks justification.

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The Gettier Rupture (1963):

Edmund Gettier published a 3-page paper overturning this long-held view.

The Problem:

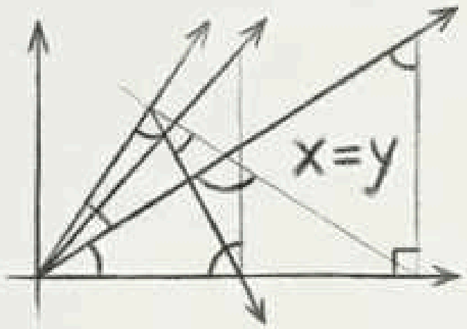
Cases exist where a person has good reasons for a belief that turns out true, but only by luck.

Philosophers have spent 60 years trying to repair the definition, without general agreement.

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Rationalism

Descartes, Spinoza, Leibniz



Reason alone gives substantive knowledge (e.g., mathematics).

Empiricism

Locke, Berkeley, Hume



All ideas and knowledge come from experience.

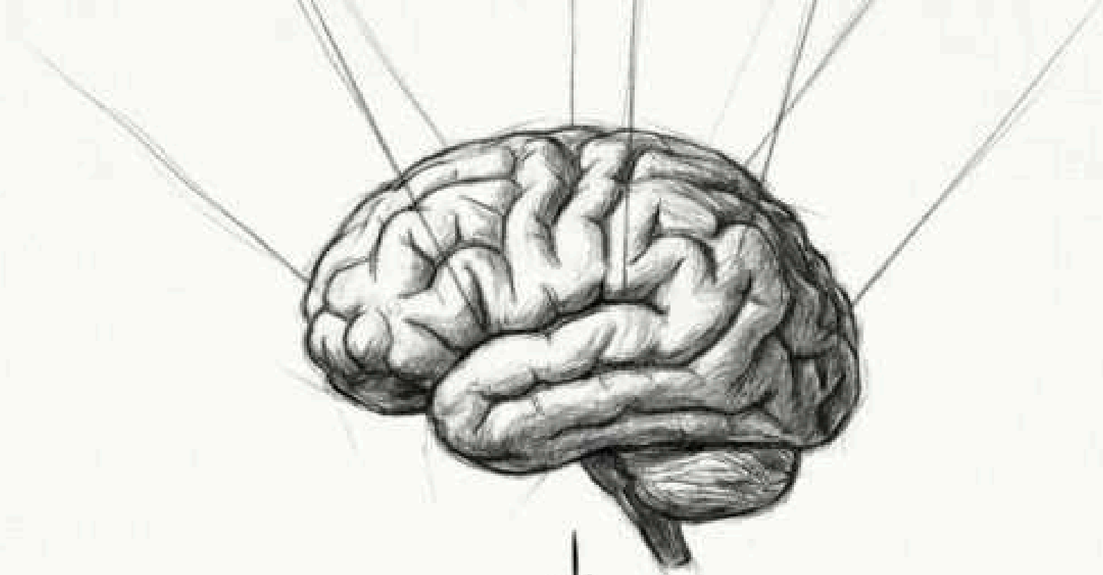
Synthesis

Immanuel Kant



Experience supplies the content of knowledge, while the mind supplies the structure through which we perceive it.

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~~Senses~~

~~Memory~~

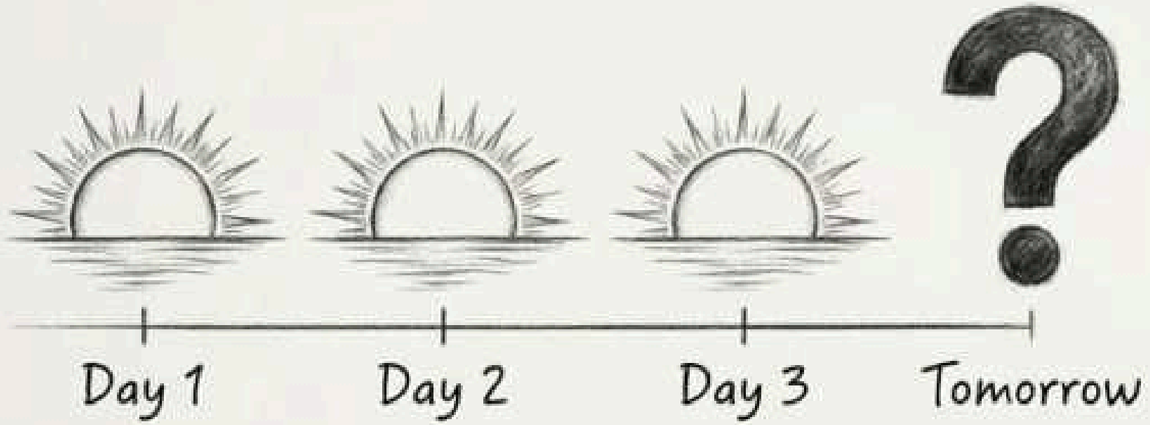
~~Physical Body~~

Cogito → Sum
(I think, therefore I am)

The act of doubting proves existence. However, whether Descartes successfully rebuilt the rest of knowledge from this single certainty remains fiercely debated.

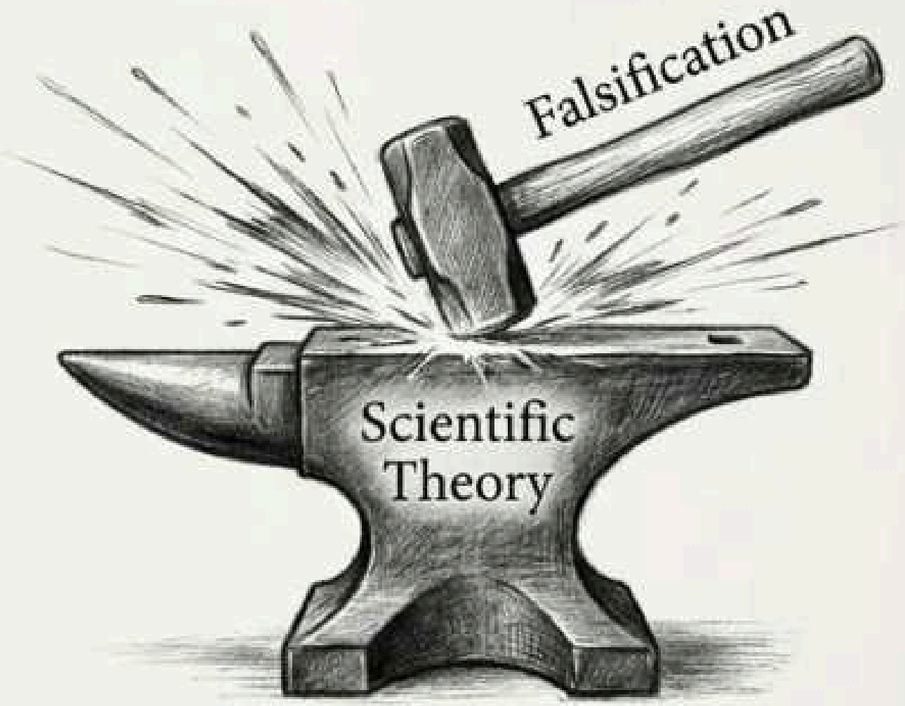
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Hume & The Problem of Induction



Nothing in logic guarantees the future will resemble the past. This applies to all scientific reasoning.

Popper & Falsification



Science does not prove theories; it only tests them, keeping those that survive attempts to falsify them.

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The Epistemic Toolkit

¶ 3.8

Quadrant 1

Axis

Distinguish

Separate what you truly know from what you merely believe or hope.

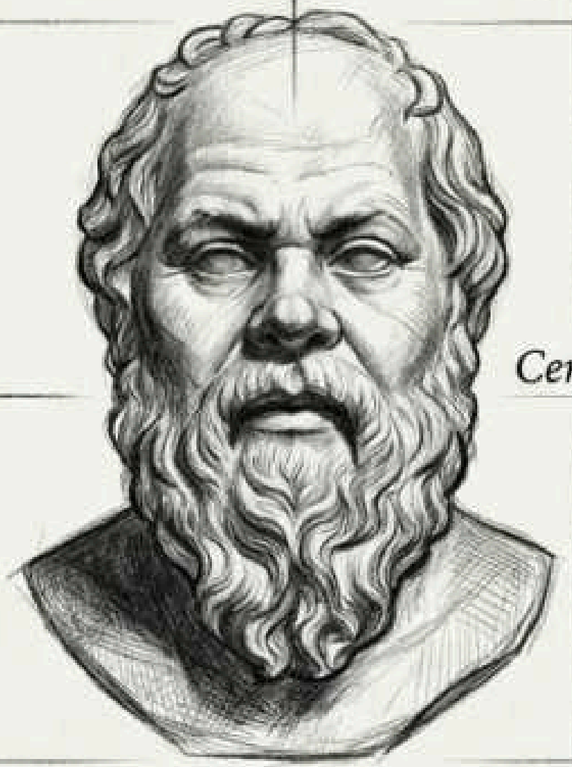
Interrogate Evidence

Ask what supports a claim, and crucially, what would count against it if it were false.

Quadrant 2

Centre

Axis



Seek Convergence

Be more confident when many independent lines of evidence agree.

Embrace Uncertainty

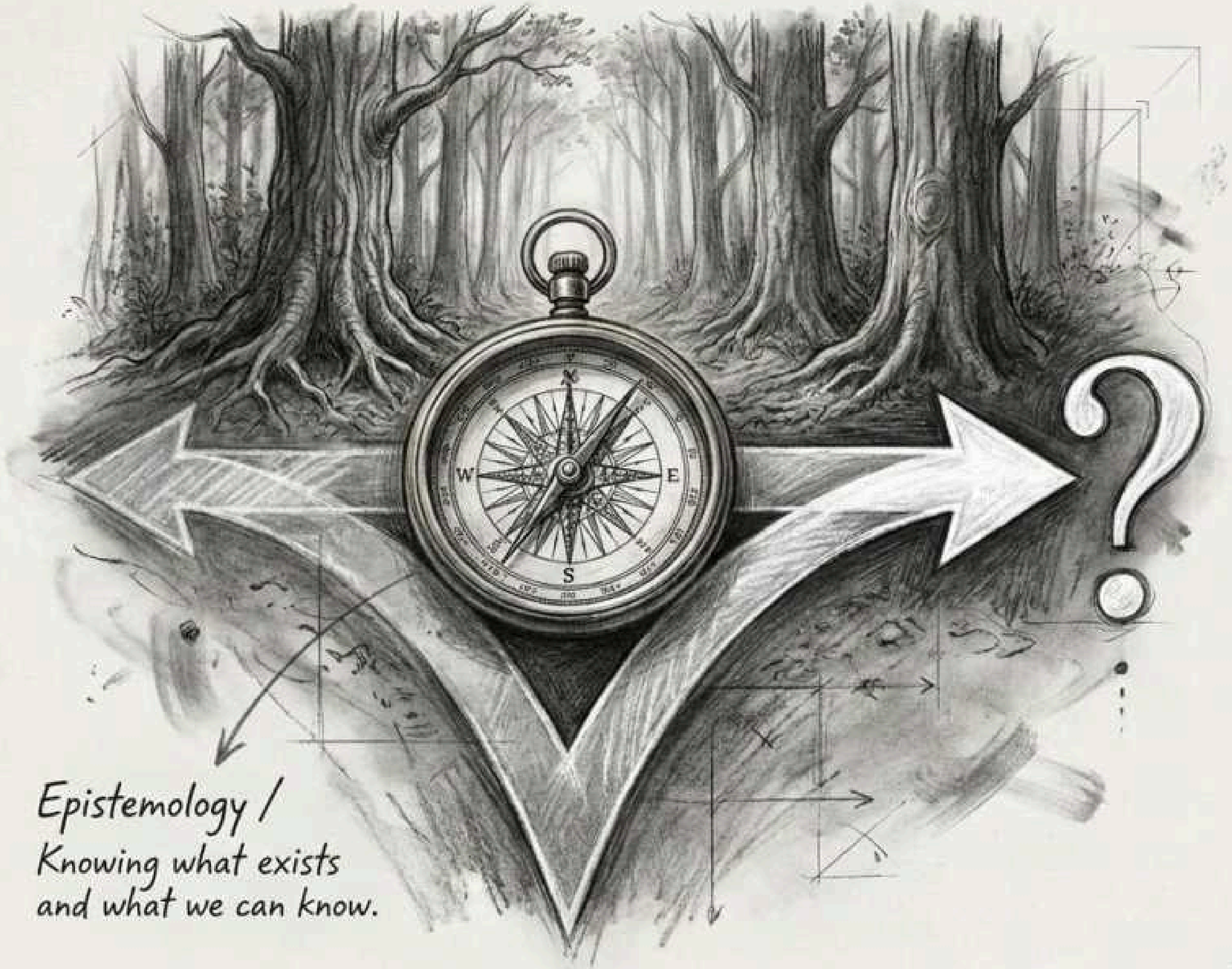
Admitting uncertainty is the beginning of knowledge, not its enemy (*The Wisdom of Socrates*).

Axis

Architectivural humeard is the enemy of philosophics.

Admitting uncertainty is the beginning of knowledge, not its enemy (The Wisdom).

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The Ultimate Unanswered Question

Establishing the limits of our knowledge leaves open the most pressing question of all:

How should we live?

Epistemology /
Knowing what exists and what we can know.

Transition to Lecture 4: Ethics.

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