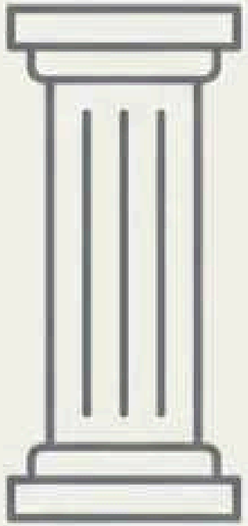
4.1



The Theory of Forms

How does Plato answer the ancient puzzle of change and being?



The Republic

What is the picture of knowledge, the human soul, and the just city?

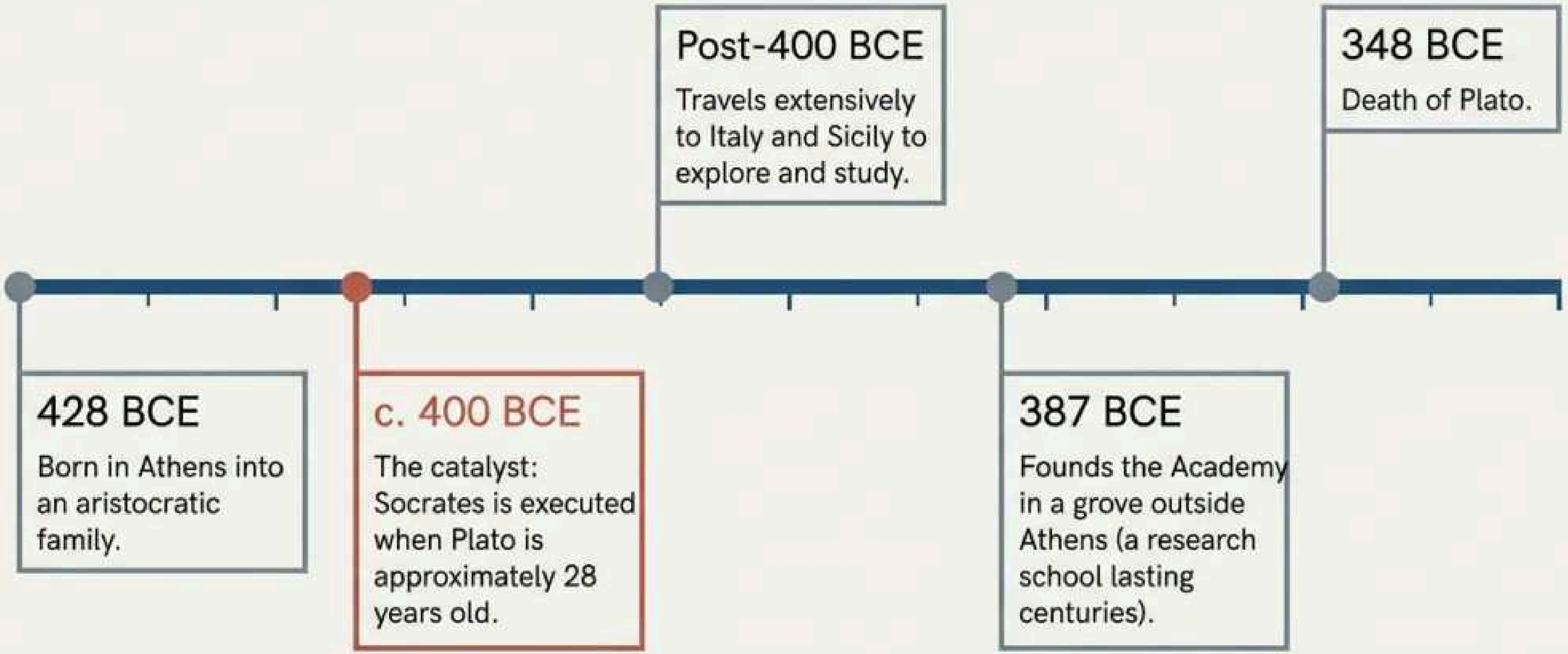


Enduring Influence

Why has this philosophical framework lasted so long, drawing mainly on the original dialogues?

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4.2



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4.3

Early Dialogues

Probing Definitions

Socrates acts as the primary questioner, interrogating baseline concepts without finalizing a doctrine.

Middle Dialogues

Theorizing

A fuller, positive philosophical theory emerges beyond mere questioning.

Late Dialogues

Refining & Criticizing

Plato actively turns his critical lens back on his own previously established theories.

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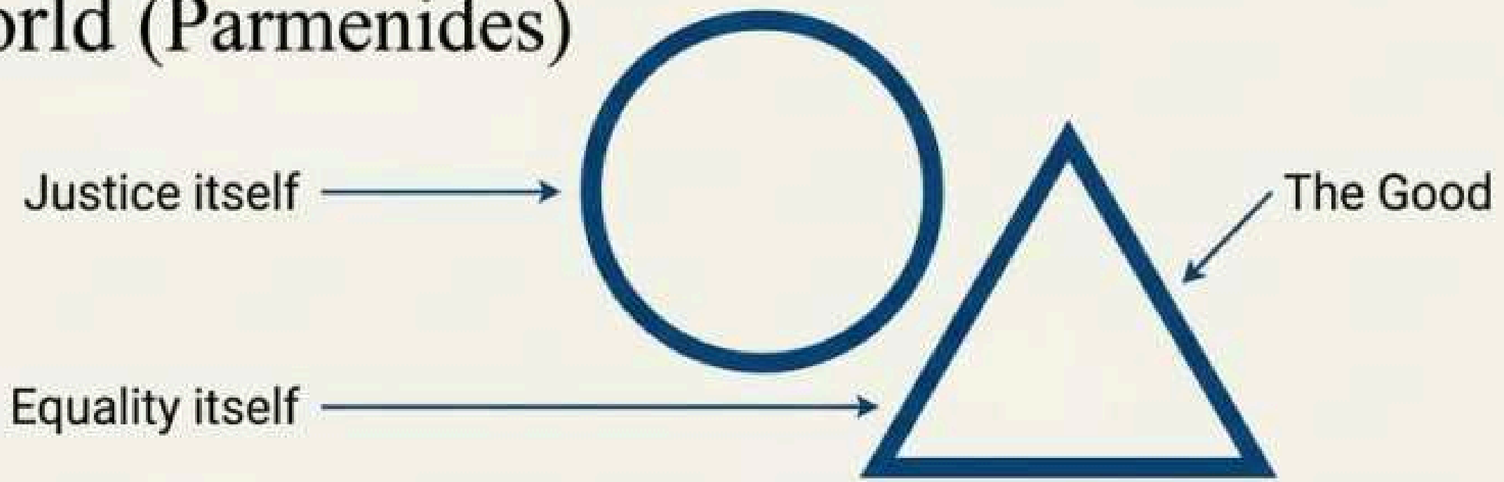
4.4

Beautiful Things	Beauty Itself (The Form)
• Fades over time; beautiful only in certain respects or contexts. • Known by the senses.	• Eternal, unchanging; always and only beautiful. • Known exclusively by reason.

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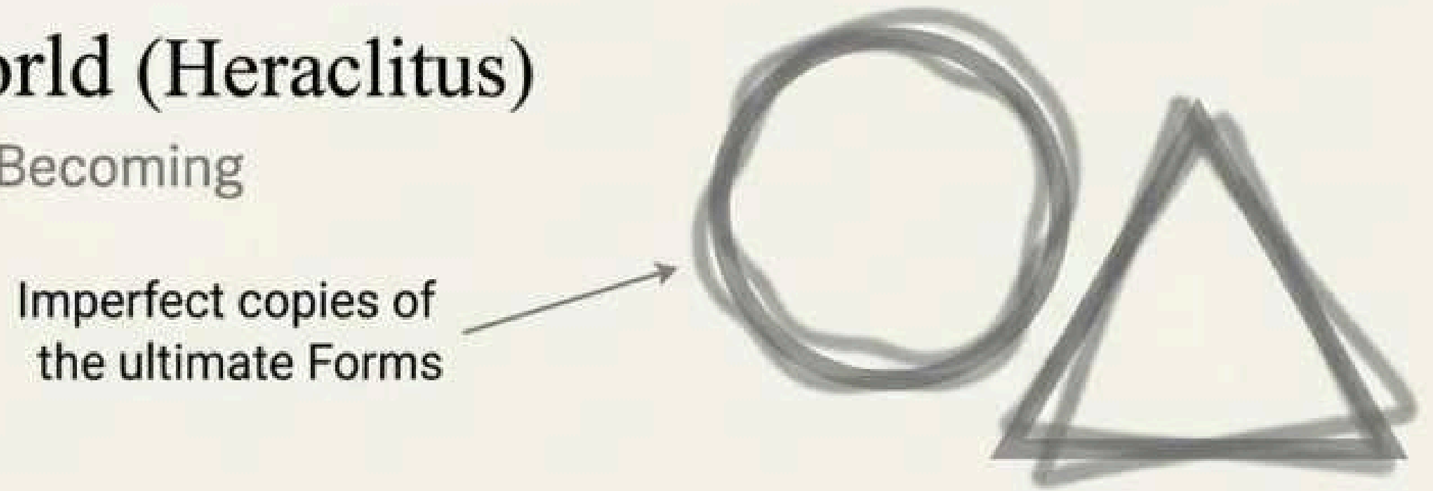
4.5 The Intelligible World (Parmenides)

The Realm of Forms



The Visible World (Heraclitus)

A World of Change & Becoming



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4.6

The Unseen Standard Grasped by Thought

The Argument from Mathematics



Observation: No physically drawn circle is ever perfectly round.

Deduction: Yet, geometry consistently proves absolute truths about perfect circles.

The Argument from Ethics

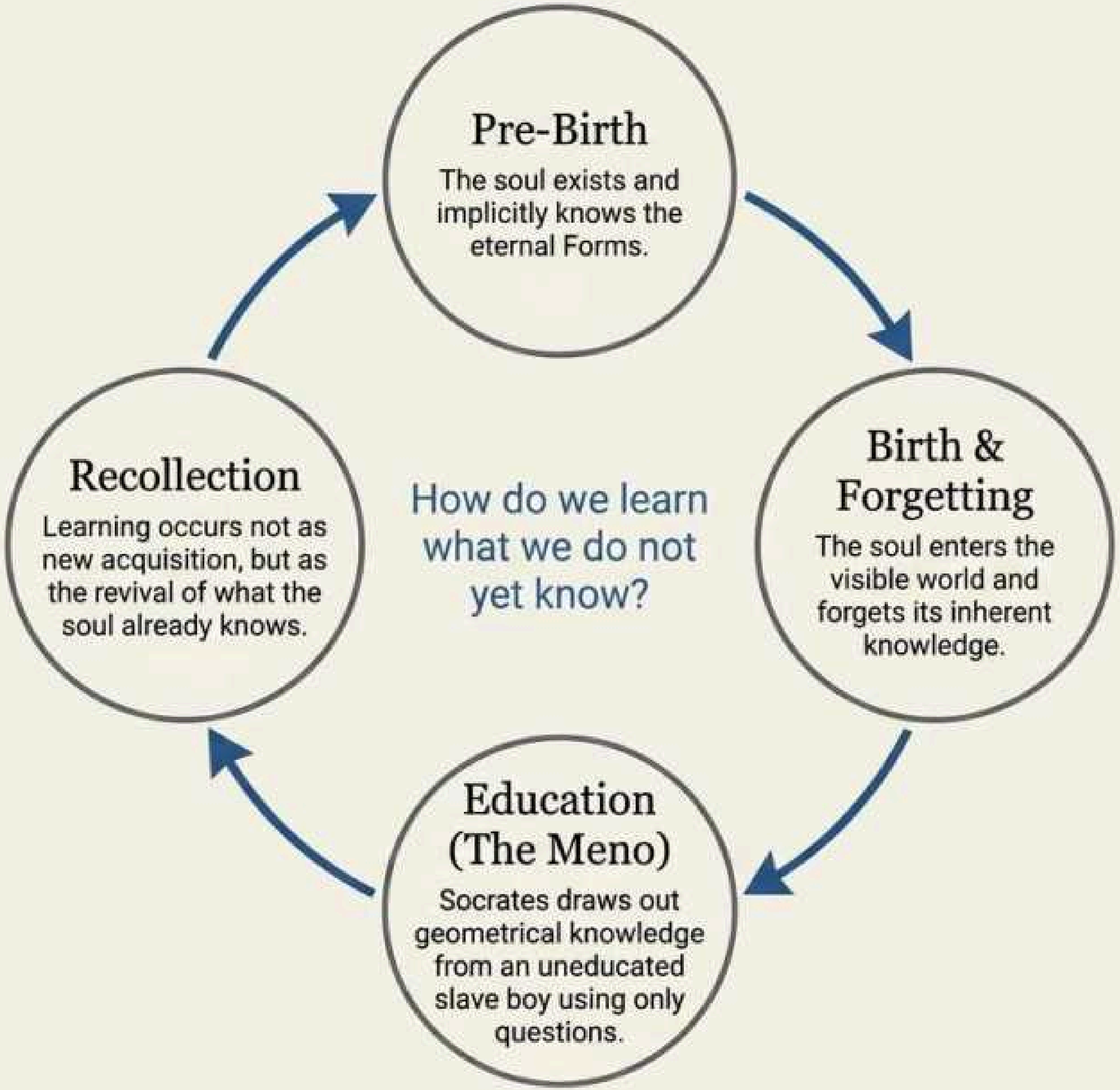


Observation: No human act is ever perfectly just.

Deduction: Yet, we possess the ability to judge exactly how close an act comes to perfect justice.

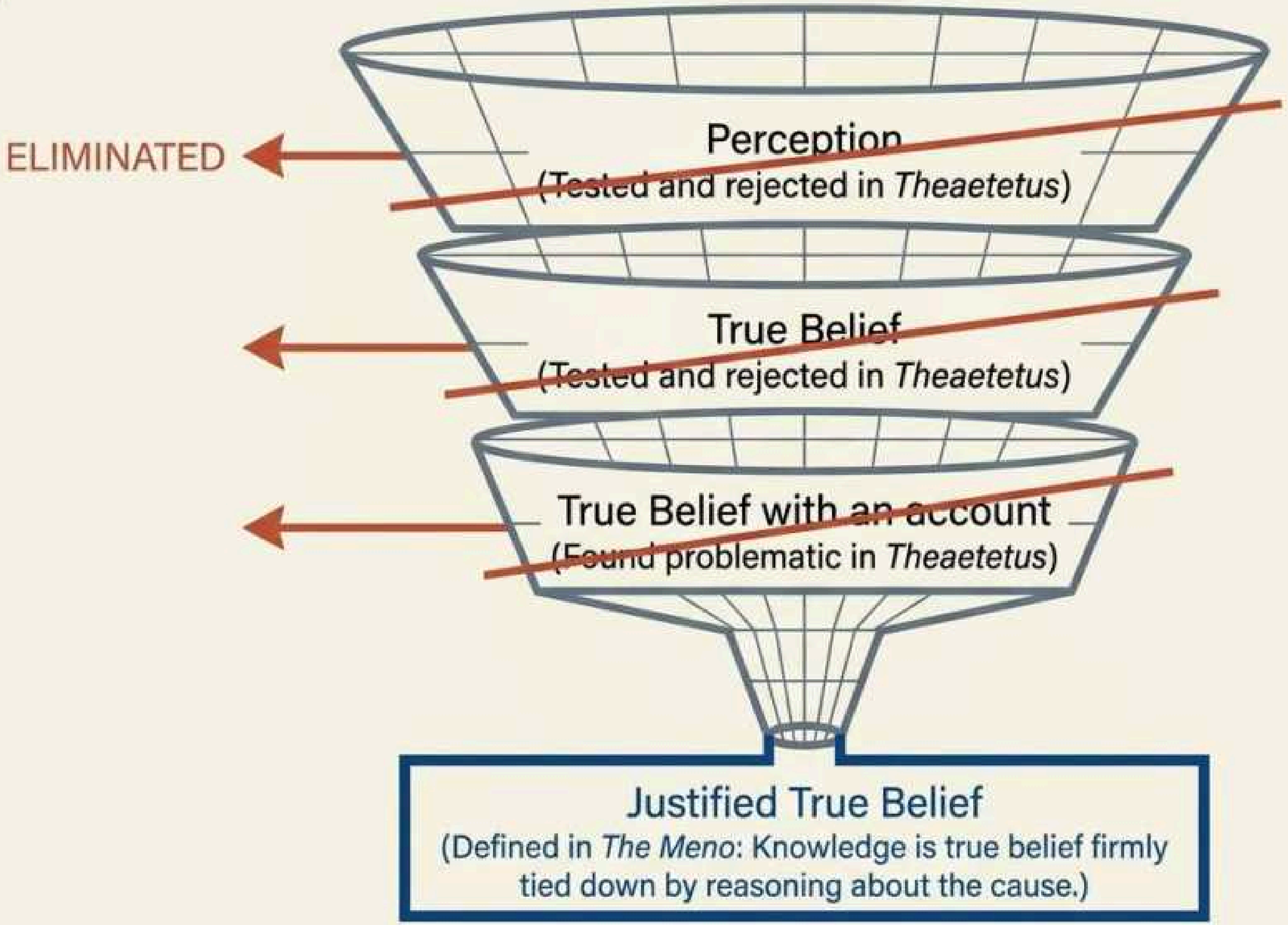
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4.8



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4.9 *The Republic*: What is justice, and does the just person live better than the unjust?



The Ring of Gyges (Glaucon's Challenge)

Scenario: A ring grants the wearer total invisibility.

The Dilemma: If you could commit wrong entirely unseen, would you still choose to be just?

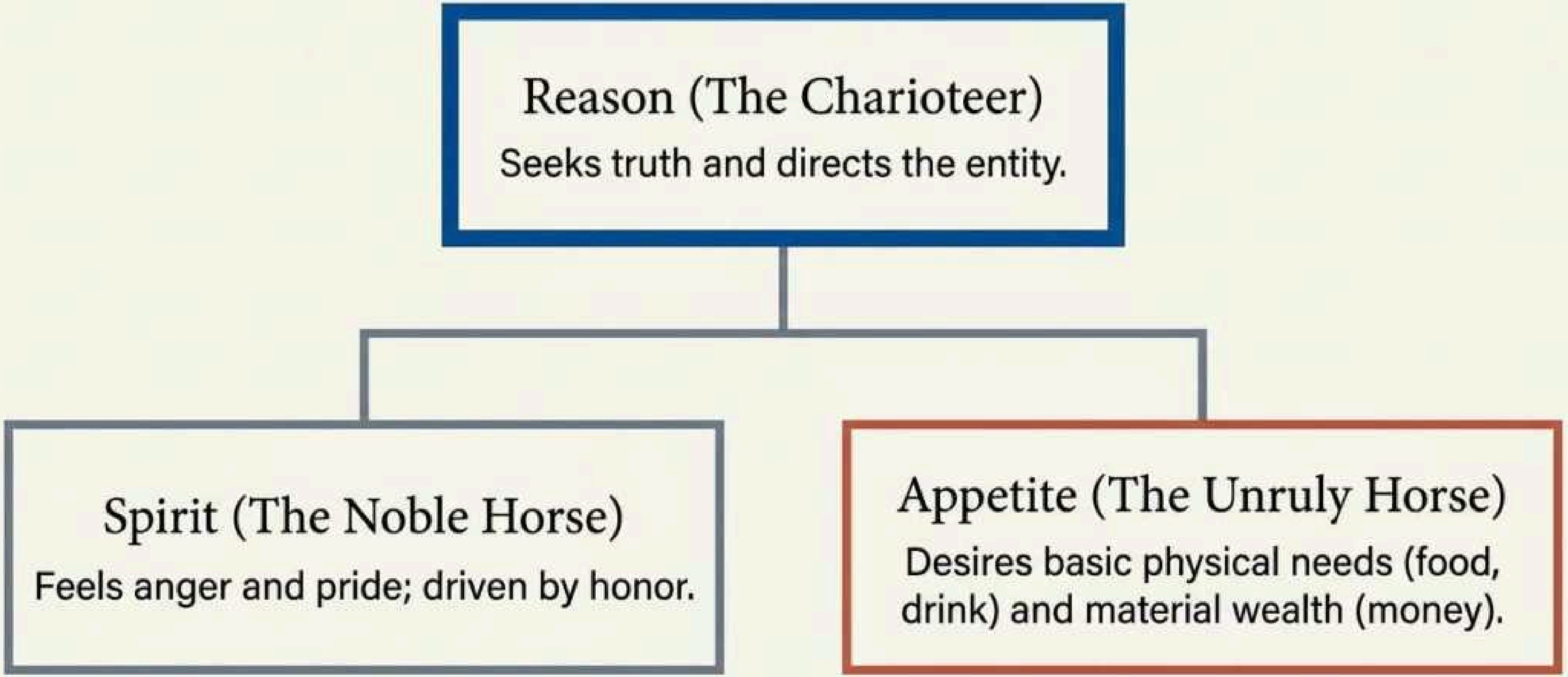


Plato's Stance

Conclusion: Justice is inherently good in itself, regardless of visibility or external consequence.

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4.11

Justice (Health of the Soul)



State: Harmony. Reason rules, Spirit helps, Appetite obeys.

Result: The just person is happy regardless of what others see (refuting the Sophists).

Injustice (Civil War)



State: Internal rebellion where the parts fail to do their own work.

Result: Unhappiness and psychological disease.

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4.12

Civic Class	Virtue	Soul Parallel
Rulers (Guardians)	Wisdom	Reason
Soldiers (Auxiliaries)	Courage	Spirit
Producers (Farmers/Craftsmen)	Moderation	Appetite

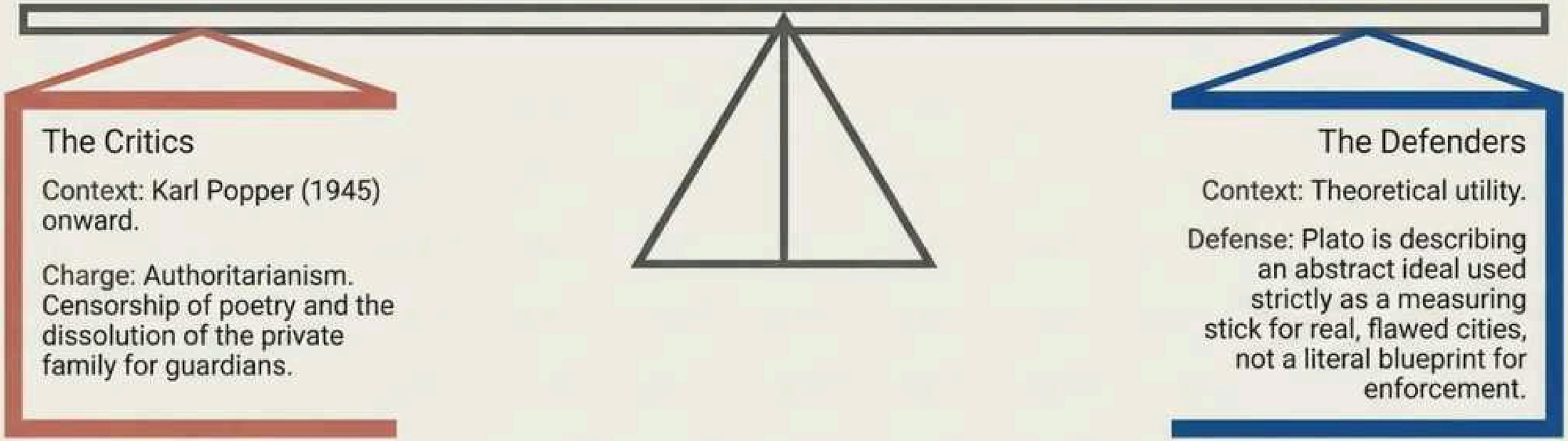
Conditions of the Just City: Each class does its own work. Plato proposes a long public education and the inclusion of women as guardians—a radically progressive idea for the era.

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4.13

The Philosopher King

Philosophers should rule because only those who know the Good can rule well. They rule reluctantly.



The Critics

Context: Karl Popper (1945) onward.

Charge: Authoritarianism. Censorship of poetry and the dissolution of the private family for guardians.

The Defenders

Context: Theoretical utility.

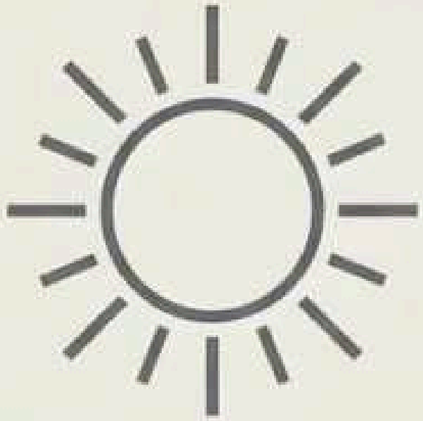
Defense: Plato is describing an abstract ideal used strictly as a measuring stick for real, flawed cities, not a literal blueprint for enforcement.

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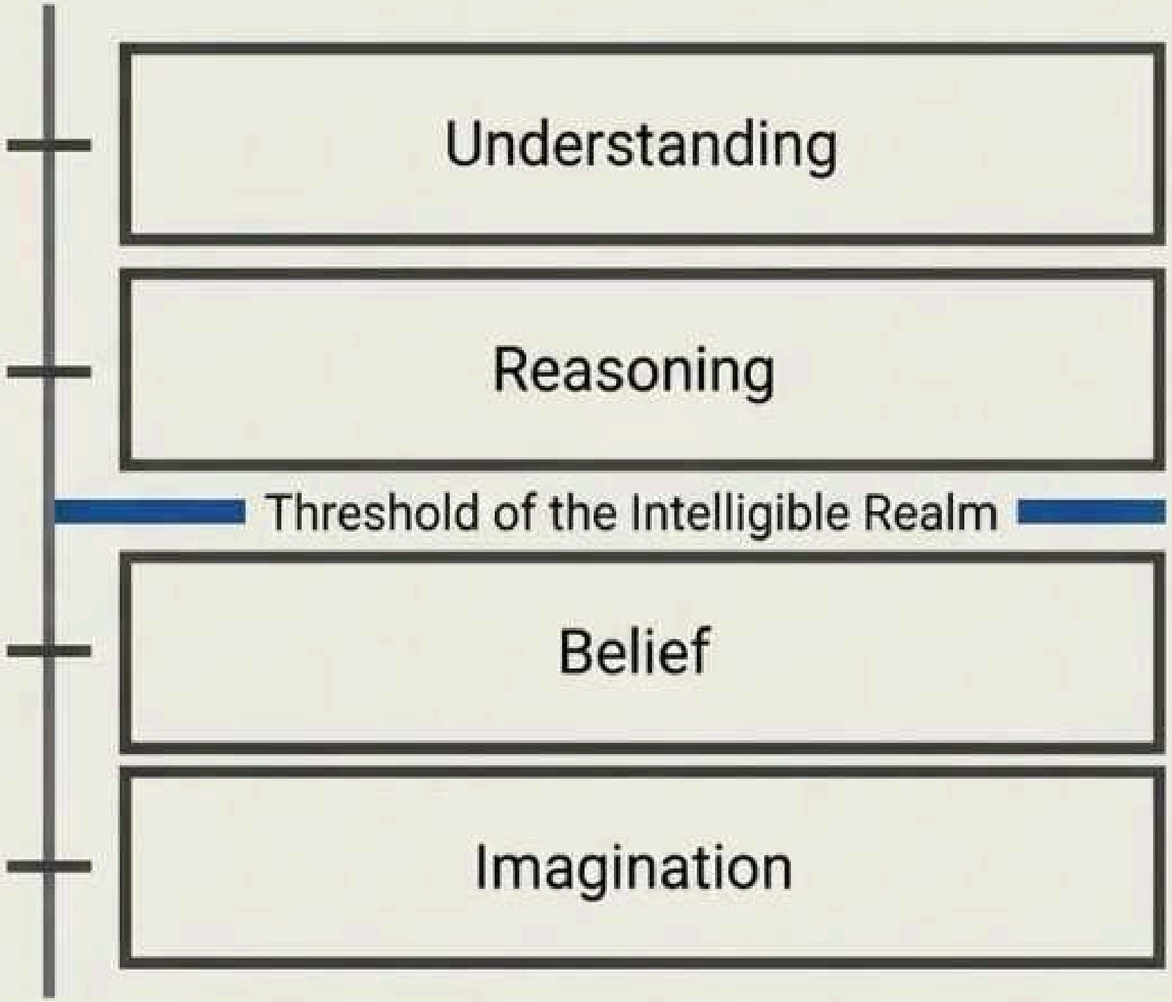
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The Sun Analogy

The Sun gives light/power to see the visible world = The Good gives truth/power to know the intelligible world.



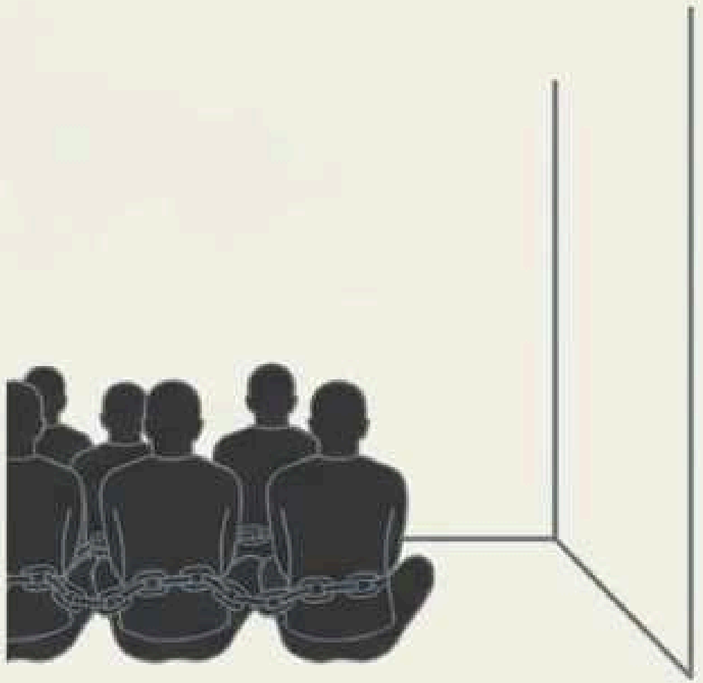
The Divided Line



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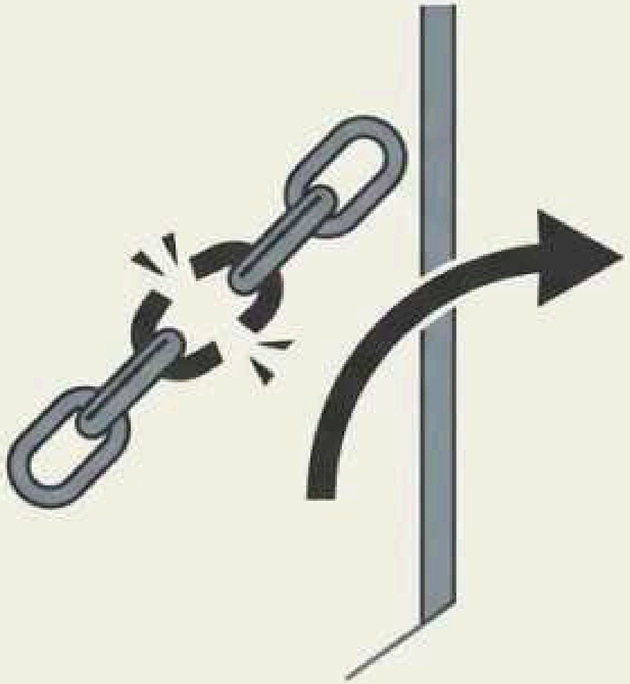
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The Chains



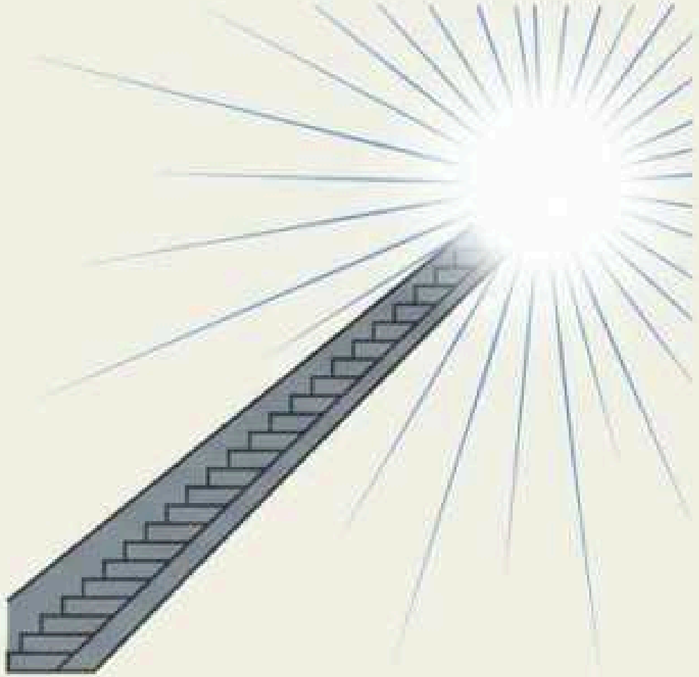
Prisoners take shadows—cast by objects carried in front of a fire—for total reality.

The Break



One prisoner is unexpectedly freed and forced to turn toward the source of the shadows.

The Blinding Light



The prisoner climbs out of the cave. At first exposure, the true sunlight utterly blinds him.

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