

and create Edward Moore's ideas moving in
the direction of analytic philosophy.

PLATO

imperfect → perfect

① Theory of Ideas/Forms/Being - (metaphysics)

⇒ This world :-

↳ impermanent, mortal, destructible + perceptual,
empirical + mutable, continuously changing

⇒ Transcendental world :-

↳ Above implies other world - unchanging, immortal,
Real - Theory of Ideas - Essence of the perceptual objects.

ex. Cowness for cow [Ideas are model entities & objects are their faithful copies, Ideas a universal concept found in all objects of same class.]

This world is manifestation/copy of the idea of transcendental world just as an imitation of an object from its mould. Just as moon derives its light from the sun, this world derives its reality from the transcendental world. Hence, this world is not unreal but less real than transcendental world.

- ✓ over & above perceptual world, there is transcendental world of ideas/forms (essence of perceptual objects)
- ✓ Plato gives metaphors like imitation theory & analogies like Cave analogy to explain his theory of Ideas.

(2) The Allegory of the Cave

The Cave :-

- ✓ imagine a cave, in which there are three prisoners. Their heads are tied in such a way that they cannot look at anything but the stone wall in front of them.
- ✓ These prisoners have been here since birth and have never seen outside of the cave.
- ✓ Behind the prisoners is a fire, and between them is a raised walkway
- ✓ people outside the cave walking along this walkway carrying things on their head including, animals, plants, wood & stone.

The Shadows

- ✓ you are one of the prisoners.
- ✓ when people walk along the walkway, you can see shadows of the objects they are carrying cast on to the wall.
- ✓ if you had never seen the real objects ever before, you would believe that the shadows of objects were 'real'.

The Game

- ✓ plato suggests that the prisoners would begin a 'game' of guessing which shadow would appear next.
- ✓ if one of the prisoners were to correctly guess the others would praise him as clever and say that he were a master of nature.

The Escape :-

- ✓ one of the prisoners then escapes from their bindings and leaves the cave.
- ✓ he is shocked at the world he discovers outside the cave and does not believe it can be real.
- ✓ As he becomes used to his new surroundings, he realizes that his former view of reality was wrong.
- ✓ He begins to understand his new world, and sees that the Sun is the source of life and goes on an intellectual journey where he discovers being and meaning.
- ✓ He sees that his former life, and the guessing game they played is useless.

The Return

- ✓ the prisoner returns to the cave, to inform the other prisoners of his findings.
- ✓ They do not believe him and threaten to kill him if he tries to set them free.

(5)

Summary

World of shadows as symbolic of perceptual world, and world of sunlight as symbolic of transcendental world. Prisoners represent ordinary people who take shadow world as real & their bondage represents their ignorance & illusion. Escaped prisoner represents philosopher who has seen true reality, knowledge & beauty.