

## Plato, from *Phaedo*

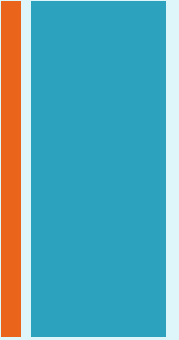
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Intro to Philosophy  
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# + Background



- Plato, the narrator, gives an account of Socrates' final lesson before his death.
- Socrates has been corrupting young Athenians
- Socrates is coerced to take a drug that will end his life.
- His final lesson goes hand in hand with the death he is about to face.

# + Death



- “For whenever the soul tries to examine anything in company with the body, it is plain that it is deceived by it.”
- Socrates welcomes death because only the body ceases to carry on

# + The Body and the Soul



- The body gets in the way of the soul
- We are distracted by the senses
- The soul knows best when the body doesn't get in the way
- Concepts like justice, good, and beauty don't come from the senses (Forms)
- Forms are abstract ideas, not the material world

# + Some Questions



- Is it possible that through the body that real truth is perceived?
- Would someone do best to approach truth with pure intelligence and not also using his senses?

# + An Out-of-Body Experience

■ The body's distractions stop us from seeing truth

- Food
- Wealth
- Disease
- Emotions



# + More Questions



- Do you feel that experience that we gather through the senses will increase our true knowledge, or only distracts us?
- Is there is a distinction between physical ailments and emotional irrationality in terms of how much they potentially blind us, or can they be grouped as the same as Socrates does?

# + Wisdom in Death



- By dying we will know truth
- By having a body we cannot know truth
- Then, two things:
  - 1. Knowledge is possible nowhere
  - 2. Knowledge is possible only after death

# + An Action Plan

- Keep bodily distractions to a minimum
- Surround ourselves with like-minded people
- Suicide



# + Another Question

- Which one, if neither, of Socrates' two statements are you more inclined to believe?

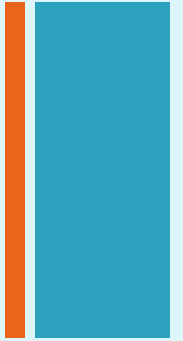


# + Near-Death Experience



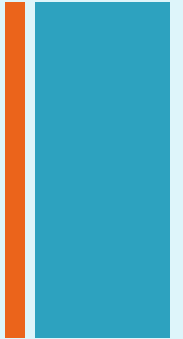
- Death separates body from soul
- Philosophers want to accomplish that
- “Practicing” dying
- No fear of death

# + Love of the Mind/Body



- Finding happiness in death
- Philosoma: lover of the body
- Confidence in one's own soul = Confidence in death?

# + The End



- Taking into account that Socrates believes real truth is only attained through death or living with minimal bodily distractions, by sitting here talking about philosophy, are we really getting at real truth or are we just bullshitting ourselves?
- Couldn't we argue that crystallized intelligence is formed from sensory experience as well as our reasoning?