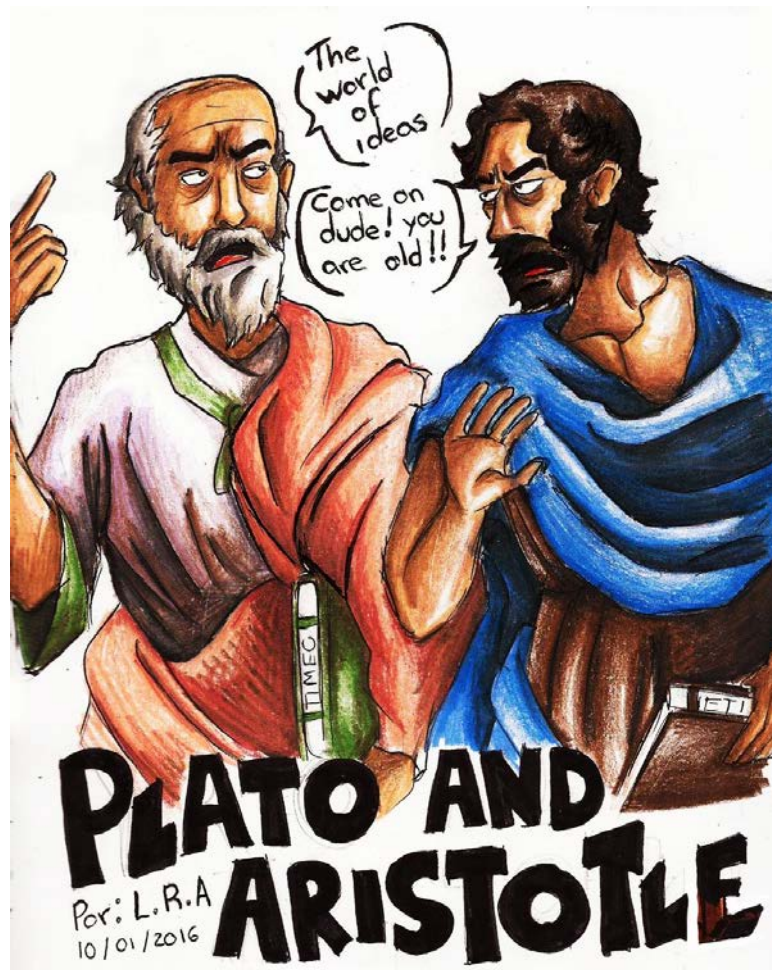


GREAT THINKERS: PLATO

Gresham Lecture
November 2020





THE THREE BIG QUESTIONS ASKED BY GREEK PHILOSOPHY

- How should we live? (ethics and politics)
- What is being and what lies beyond human experience? (ontology and metaphysics)
- How can we be sure of what we know? (epistemology).



FORMS



PLATO
PROTAGORAS



EDITED WITH INTRODUCTION, NOTES
AND APPENDICES BY
J. ADAM & A.M. ADAM

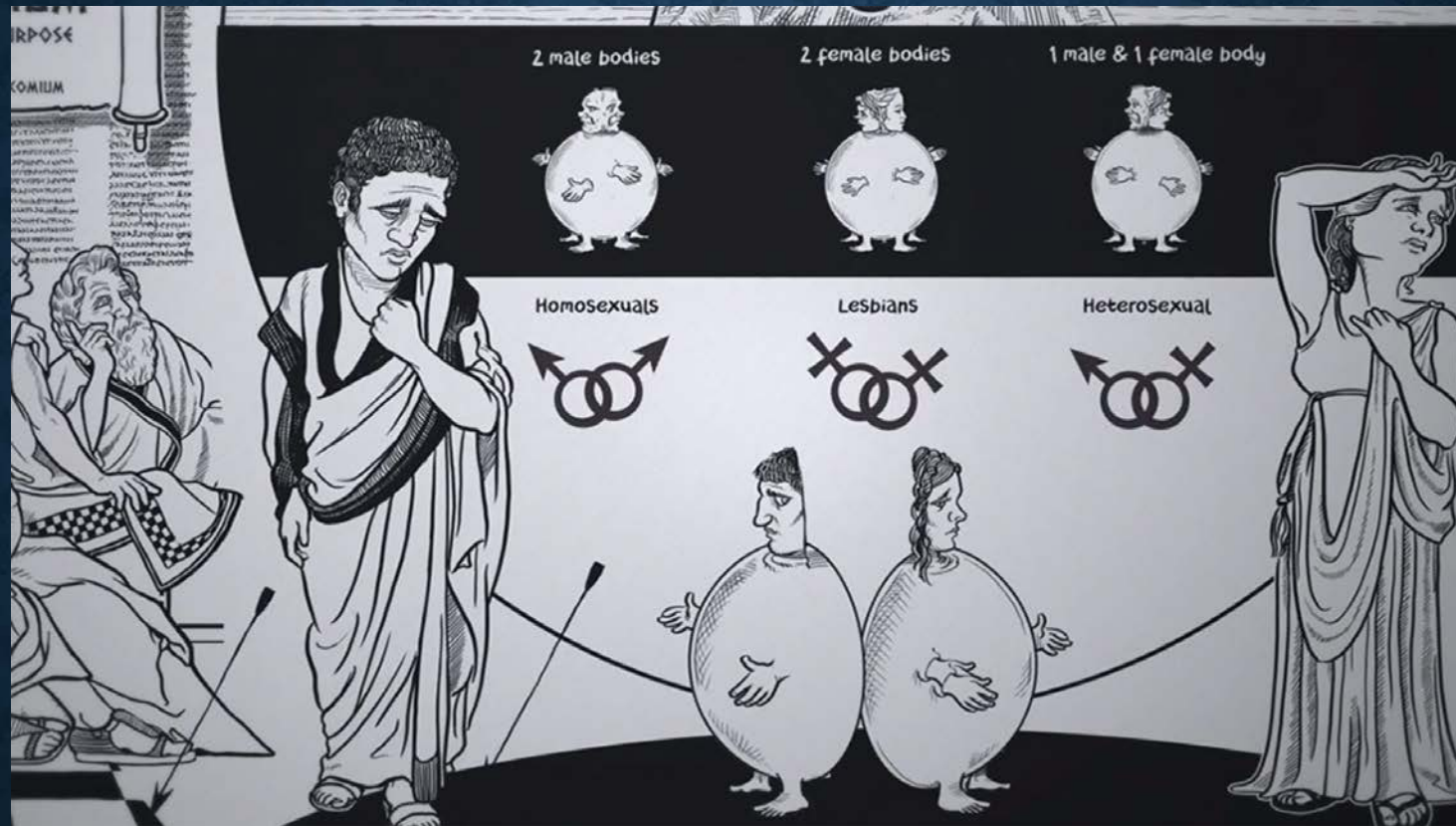




**ALCIBIADES ARRIVES LATE AT THE DEBATE ON
LOVE IN *SYMPOSIUM***



SOCRATES' TEACHER DIOTIMA

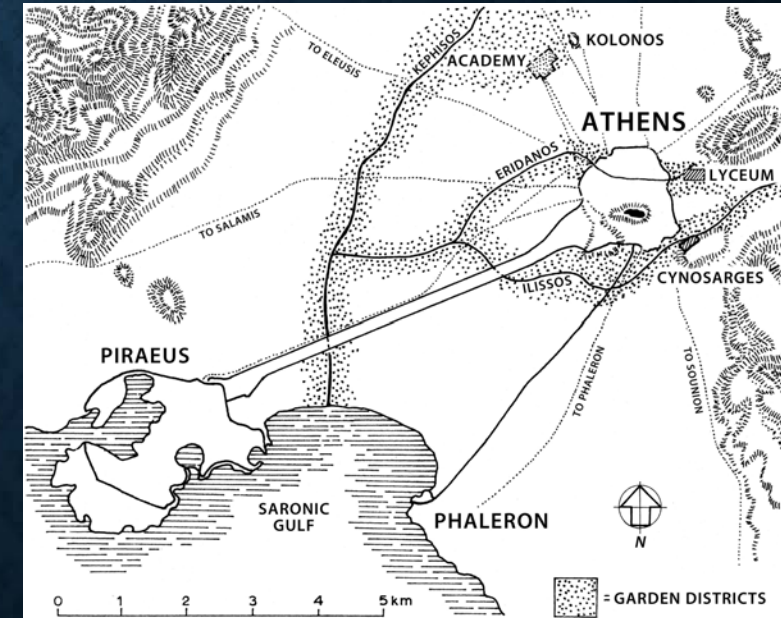
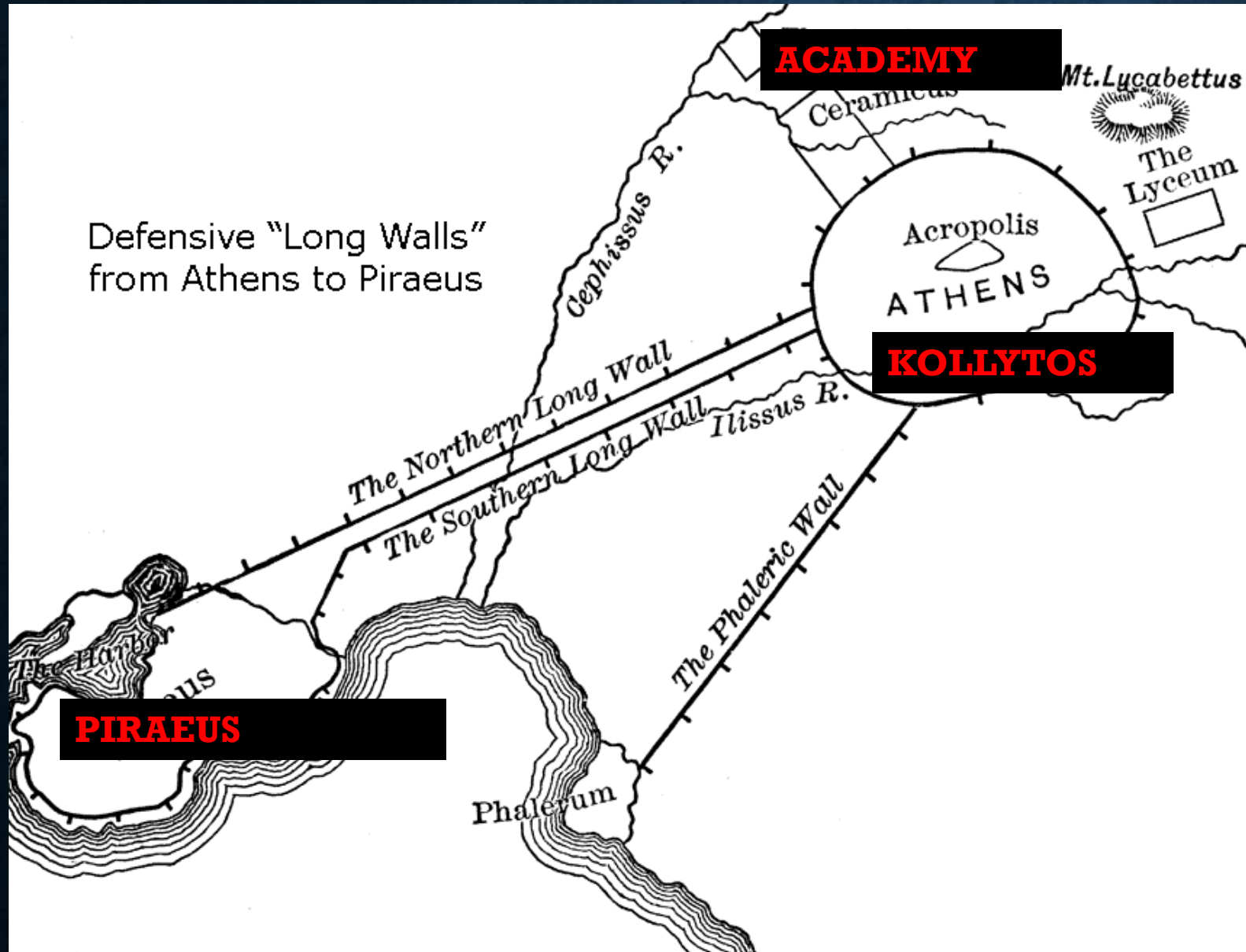


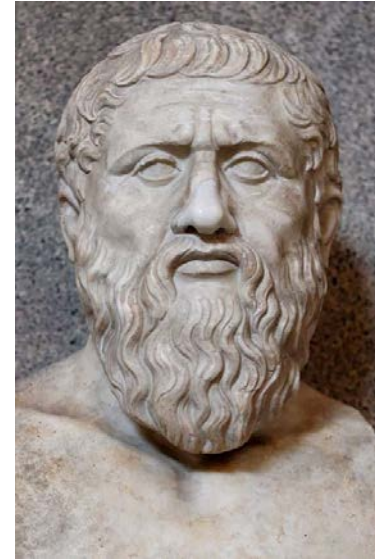
ARISTOPHANES' SPEECH IN SYMPOSIUM: WE ALL YEARN FOR OUR 'OTHER HALF'



**EXQUISITE PORTRAIT OF PHILOSOPHY IN ACTION: LISTENING
TO THE CICADAS UNDER THE PLANE TREE IN *PHAEDRUS***

PLATO'S ATHENS

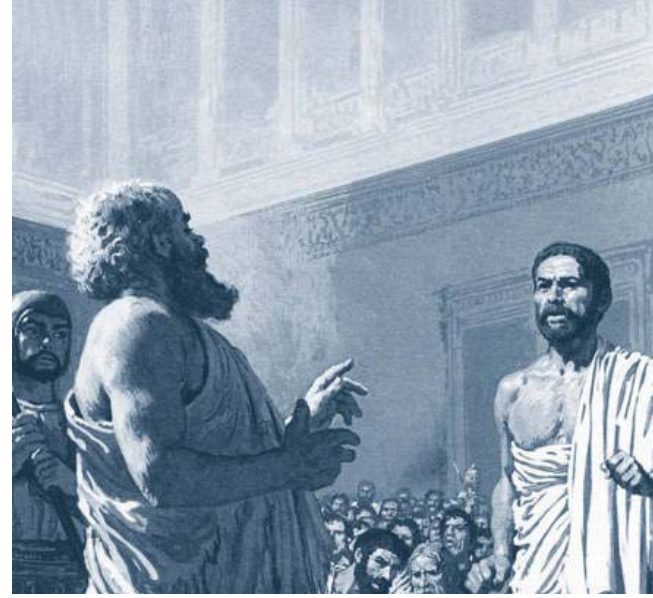




**‘PLATO’—BROAD-CHESTED WRESTLER OR
WIDE-FOREHEADED SAGE?**



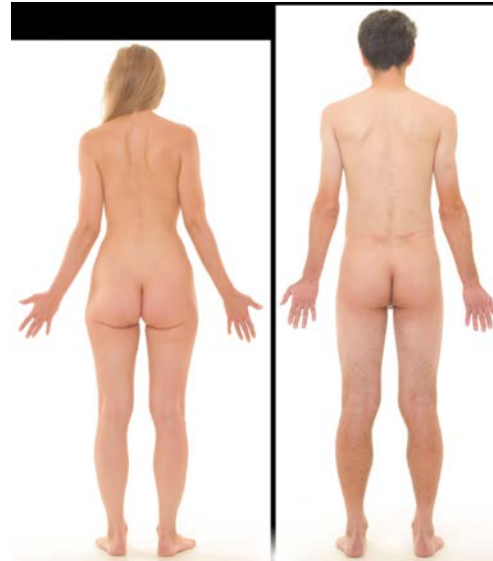
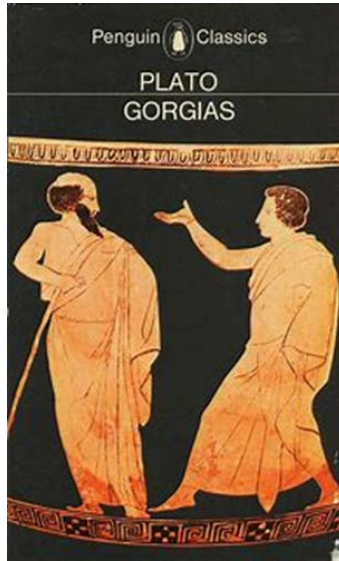
**TWO OF PLATO'S
UNCLES, CRITIAS
AND CHARMIDES,
WERE AMONGST
THE THIRTY
TYRANTS.**



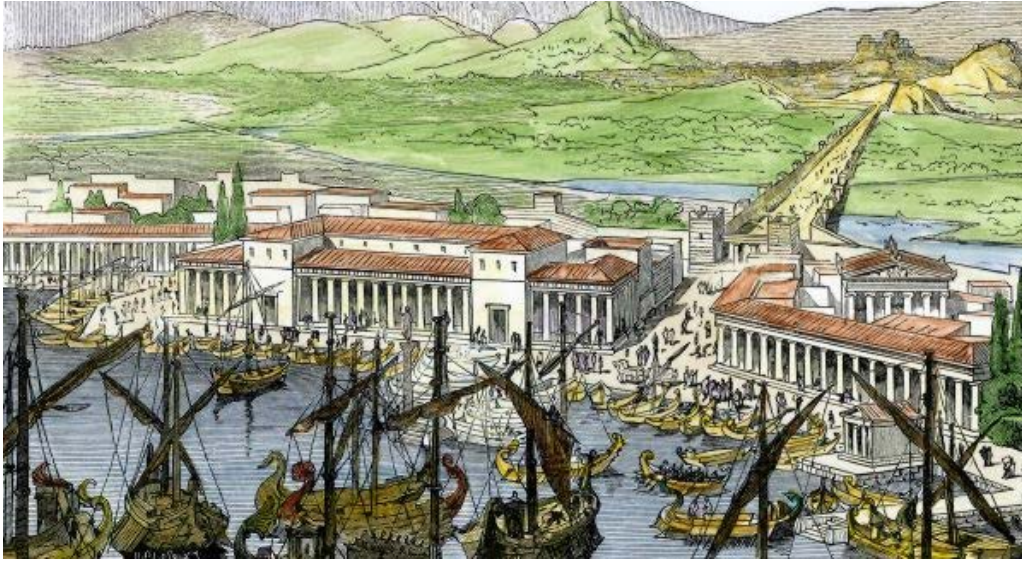
SOCRATES ON TRIAL IN *APOLOGY*



**‘SOCRATES
DRINKING THE
HEMLOCK’ (1767)
BY ANTONIO
ZUCCHI—PRISON
NARRATIVE AS
IN *CRITO* AND
*PHAEDO***



**GORGIAS: RHETORIC IS TO TRUTH WHAT CLOTHING, MAKE-UP & PROPS
CAN BE TO THE HUMAN BEING & PASTRY DECORATIONS TO PIES**



***REPUBLIC* IS SET AT POLEMARCHOS' HOUSE IN PIRAEUS AT THE TIME OF THE INAUGURATION OF BENDIS' CULT.**

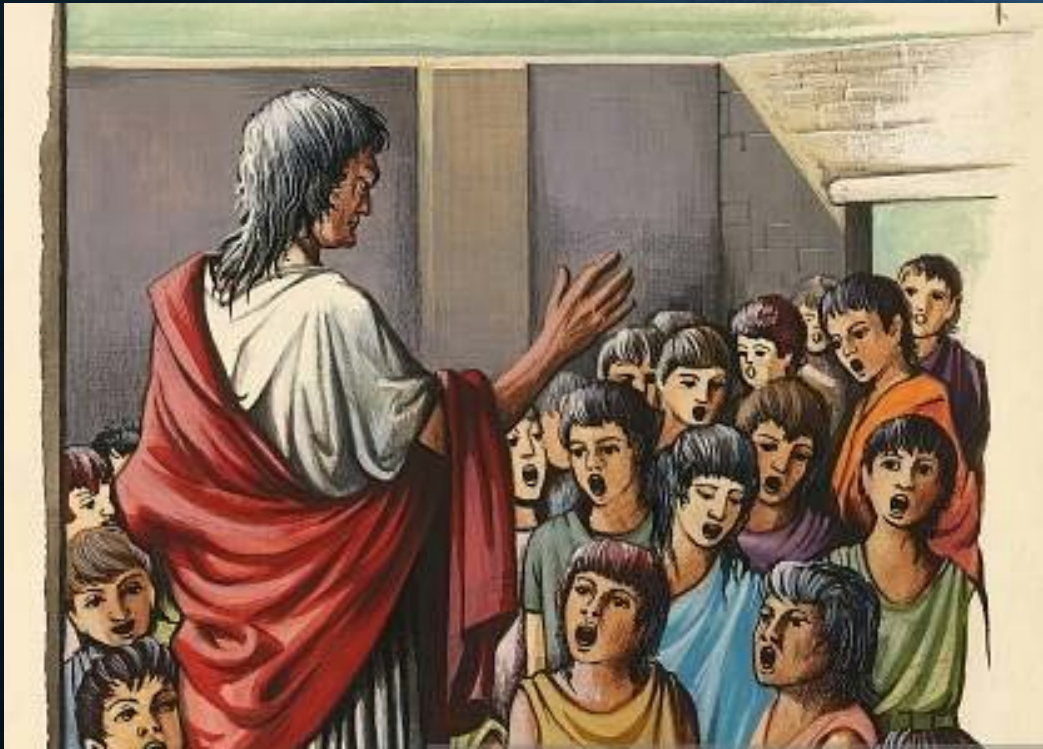


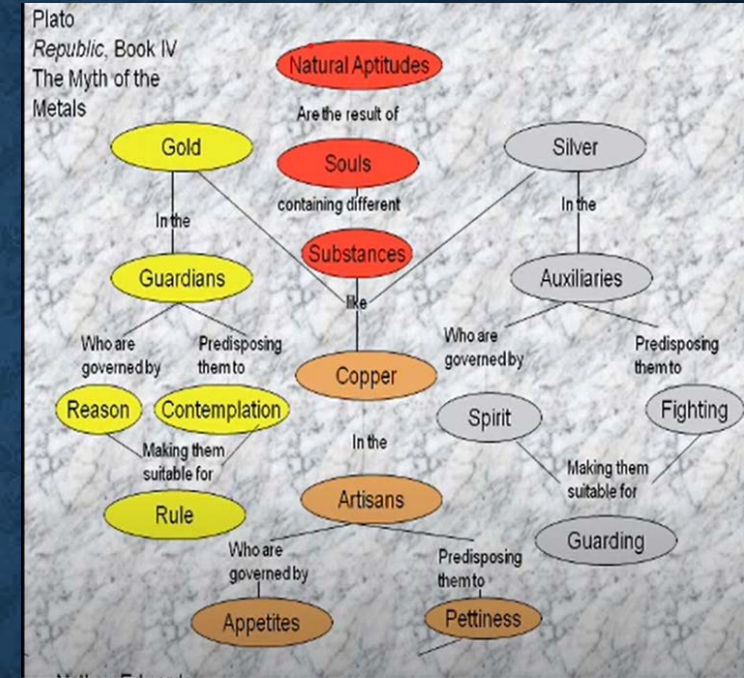
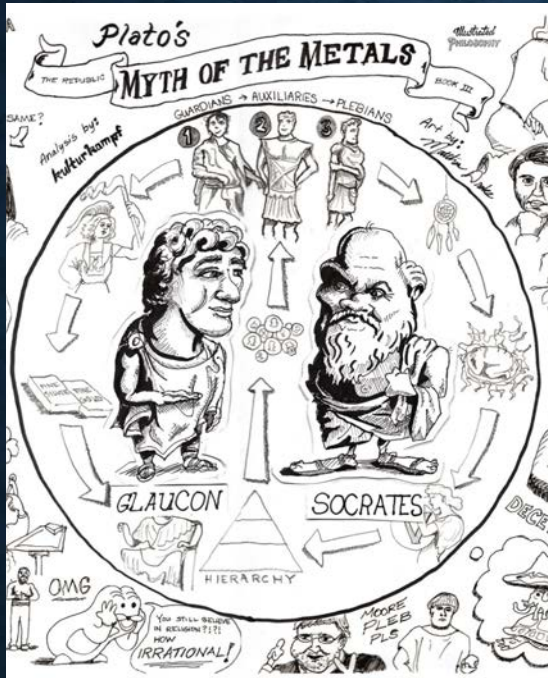
**GYGES FINDING THE RING OF INVISIBILITY.
UNKNOWN PAINTER OF FERRARA. 16TH CENTURY.**

HYMNS TO GODS

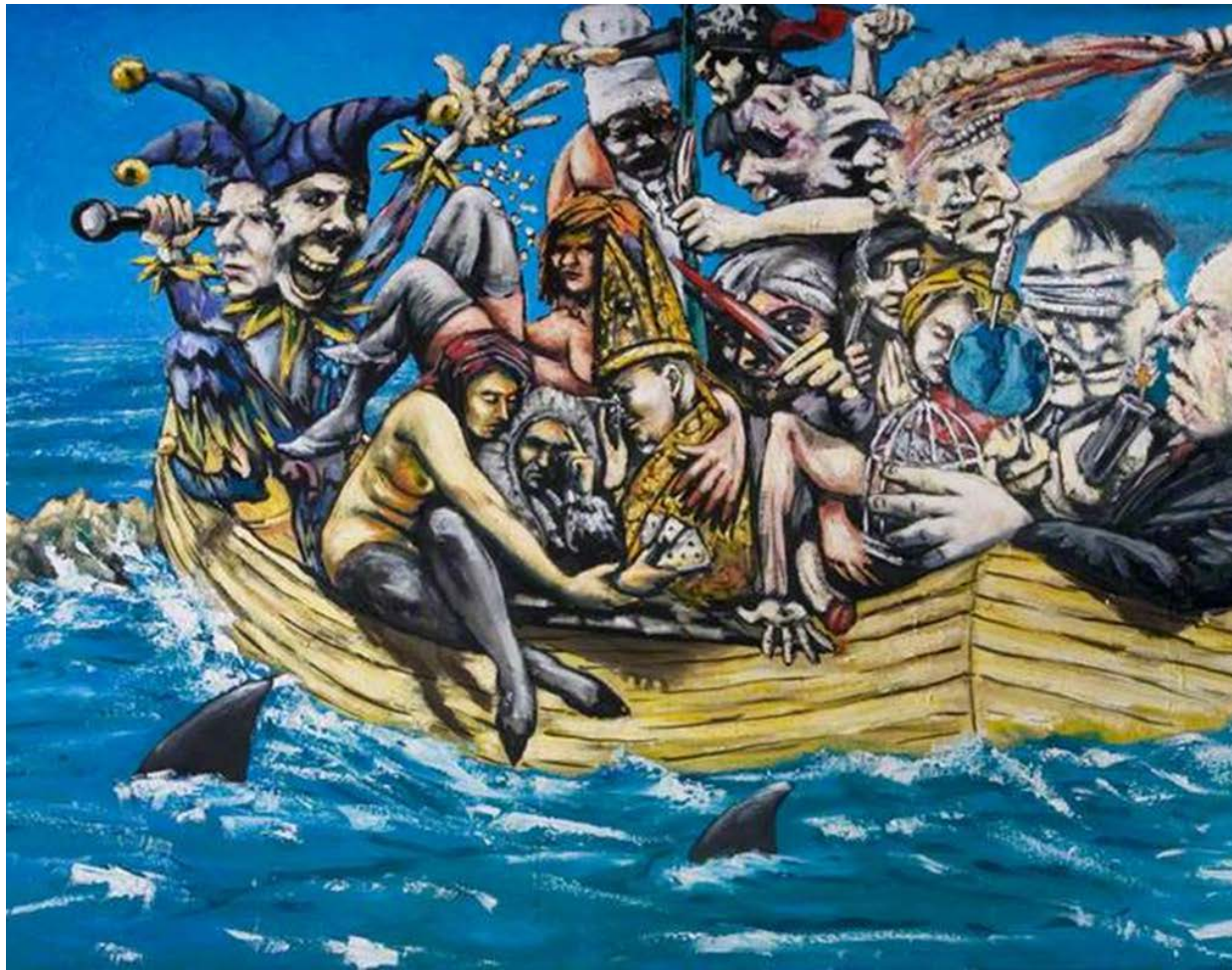


THEATRE









MYTH OF THE METALS



**THE SHIP OF STATE
CAN EASILY TURN
INTO A SHIP OF
FOOLS (PAINTED
HERE IN 1986 BY
ANTHONY PILBRO.
HERBERT ART
GALLERY &
MUSEUM)**

The Sun

Source	 The Sun	The (Form of the) Good
Provides what?	Light, growth	Reality, truth – 'light of reason'
Where?	Sensible world	Intelligible World
In order to...	 See	 Know
With what?	 Objects i.e. 'particulars'	FORMS

PLATO

The Divided Line

Physical World of Senses

Invisible World of Reason

Becoming:
Opinion

Being:
Intellect

conjecture
(shadows)

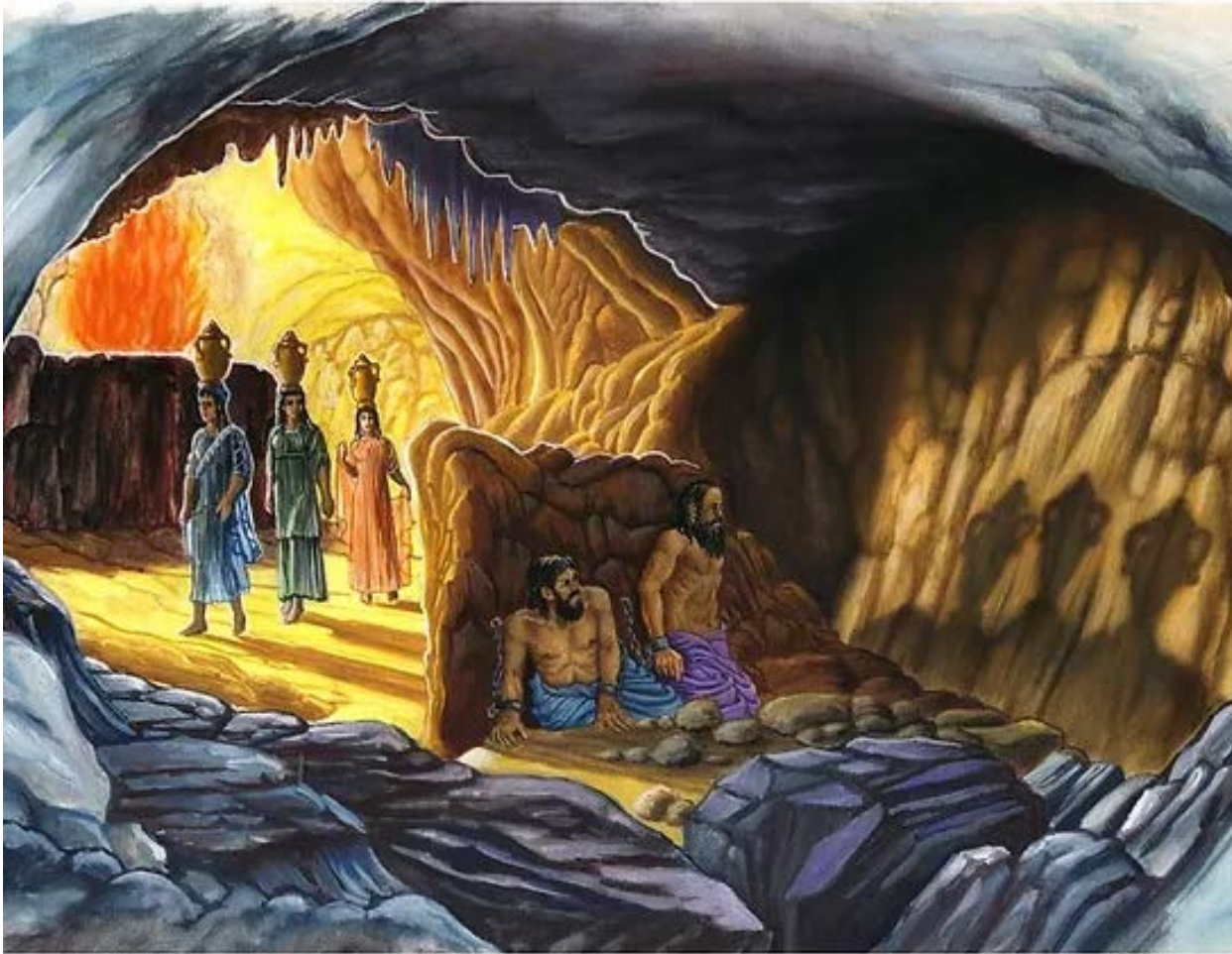
belief
(physical objects)

understanding
(mathematics)

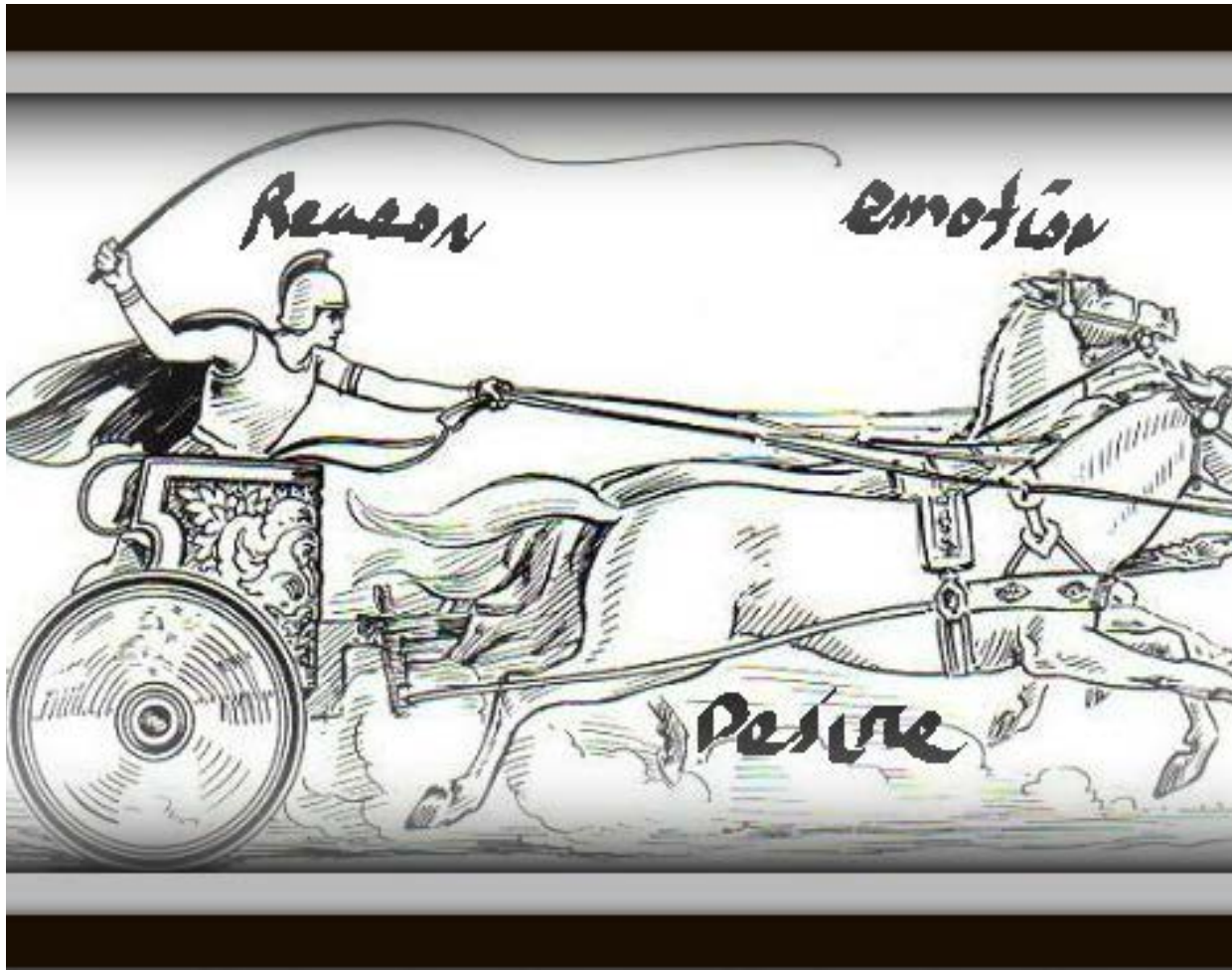
knowledge/science
(ideal forms)



J. Paul Getty Museum, 73.AA.16



ALLEGORY OF THE CAVE



**THE THREE
PARTS OF
THE SOUL
ACCORDING
TO THE
REPUBLIC
(CHARIOT
OF THE
SOUL IS AN
IMAGE IN
PHAEDRUS)**



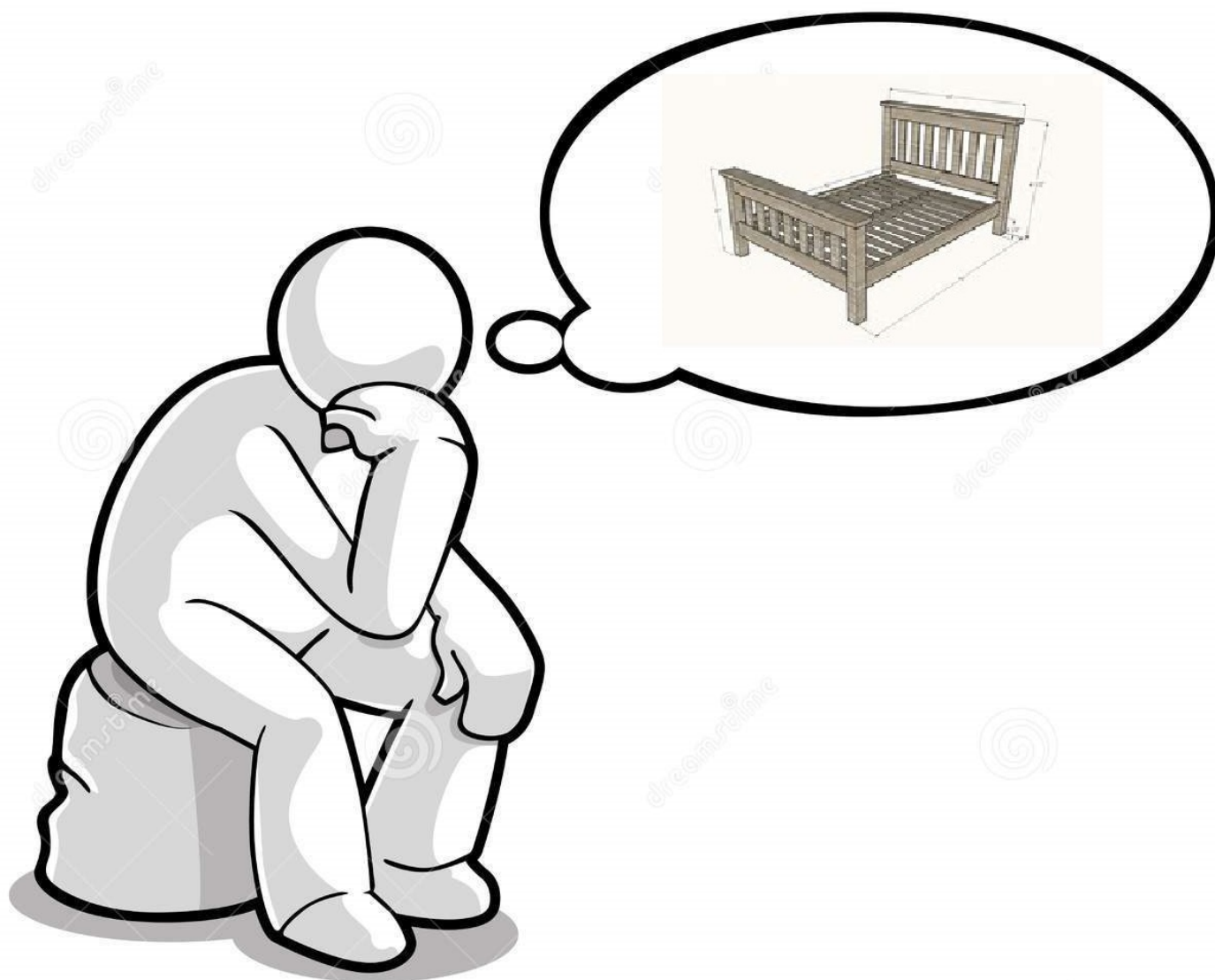
**THE JUST MAN WHO CONTROLS HIS
INNER LION AND MANY-HEADED HYDRA
WILL BE 729 TIMES HAPPIER THAN THE
MAN WHO LETS THEM RAMPAGE**

X



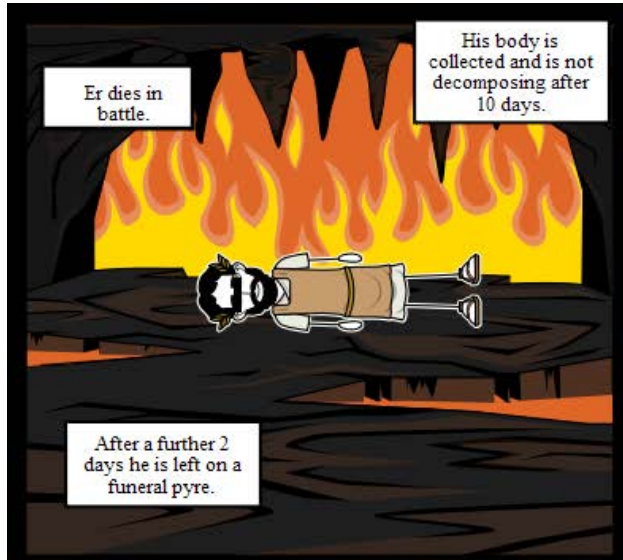
X



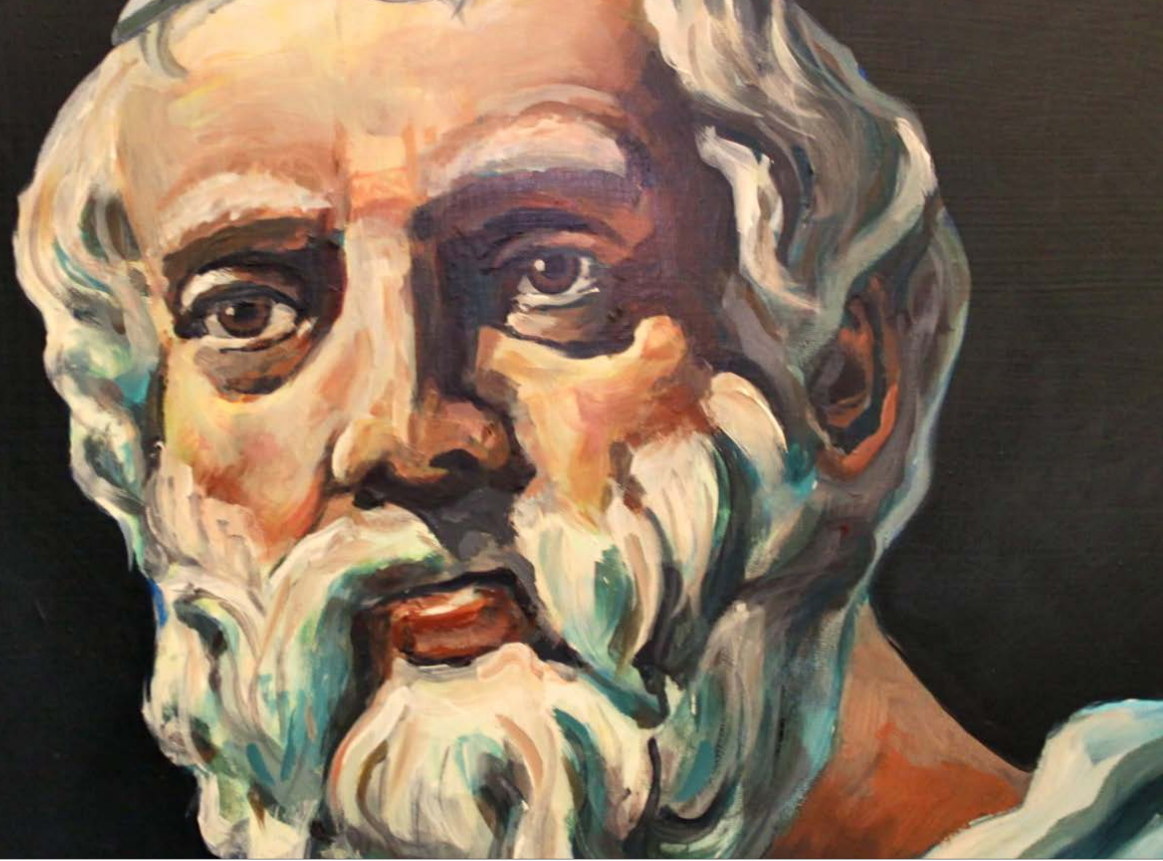




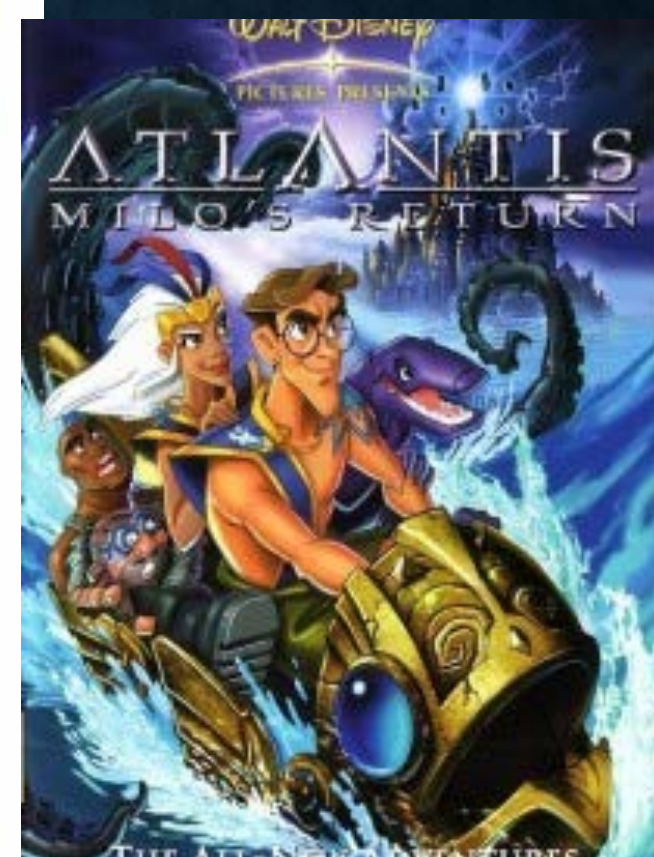
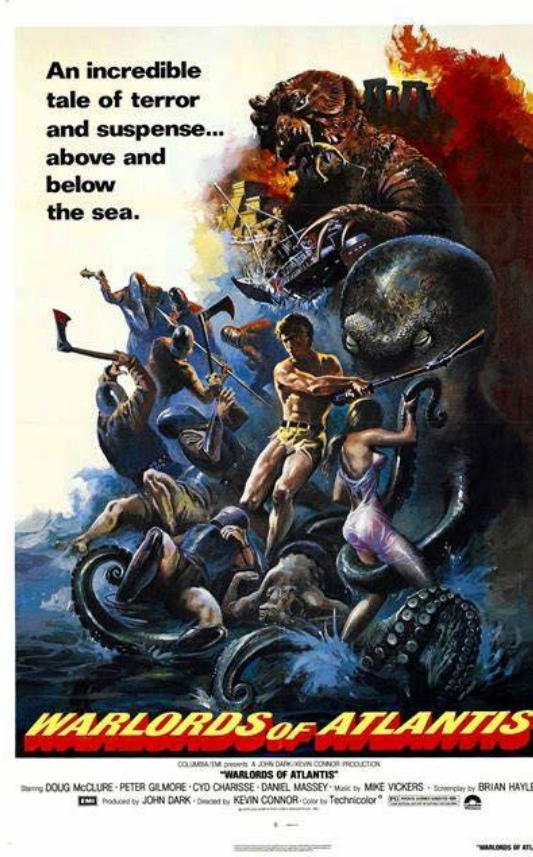
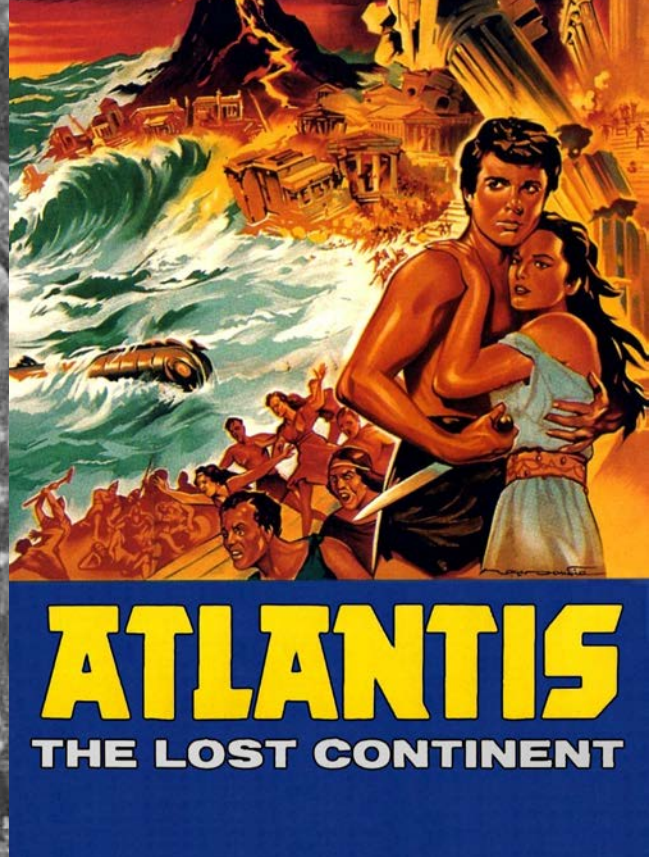
**OPTICAL ILLUSION: ART DISTORTS WHAT IT REPRESENTS AS
OBJECTS SEEN IN A GLASS OF WATER ARE DISTORTED.**



MYTH OF ER: OUR SOULS ARE REINCARNATED



LOST CITY OF ATLANTIS IN *TIMAEUS* AND *CRITIAS*



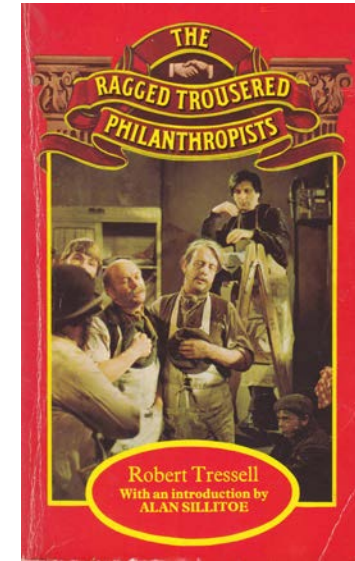
**MANY MOVIES ABOUT ATLANTIS SINCE
THE EARLY DAYS OF CINEMA**



**TOLKEIN'S
GOLLUM: WILL
HIS RING OF
INVISIBILITY
ALLOW HIM TO
EAT BILBO?**



**PLATO'S
ACADEMY
MOSAIC
(FROM
POMPEII)**

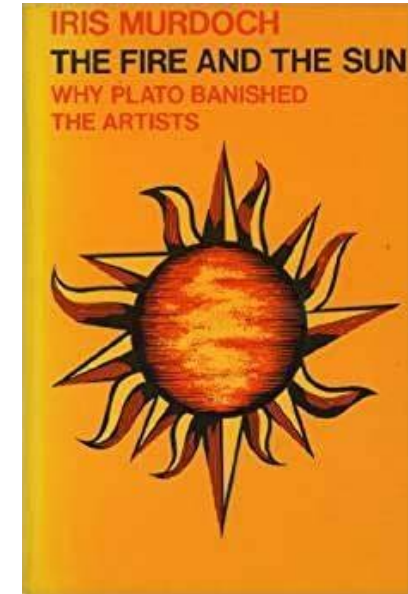
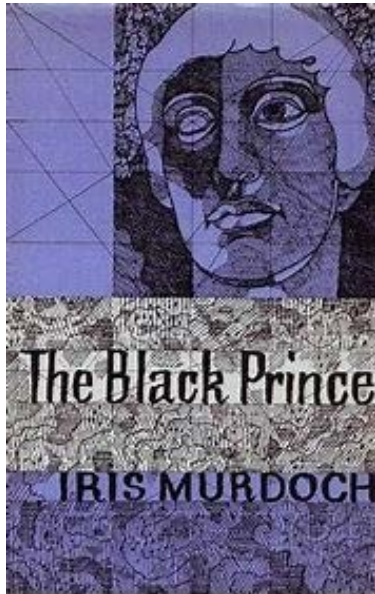


**ROBERT TRESSSELL'S *THE RAGGED-TROUSERED PHILANTHROPISTS* IS
BUILT AROUND THE ALLEGORY OF THE CAVE**

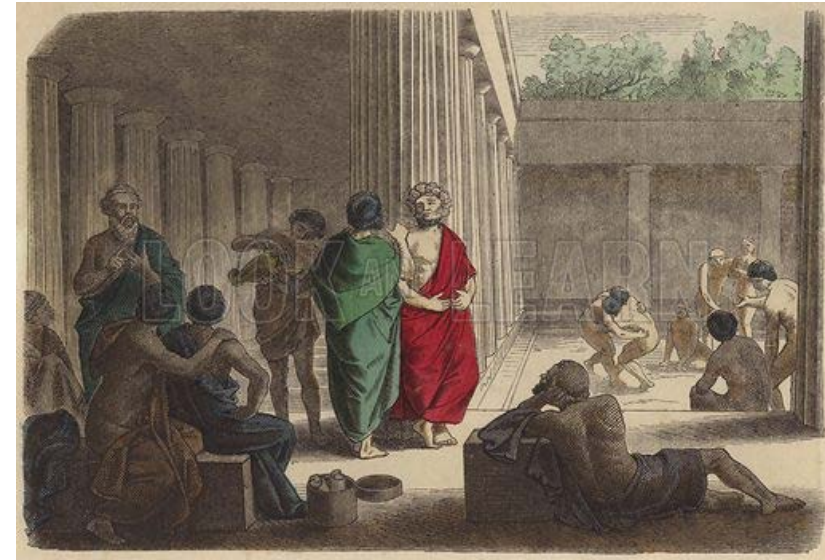
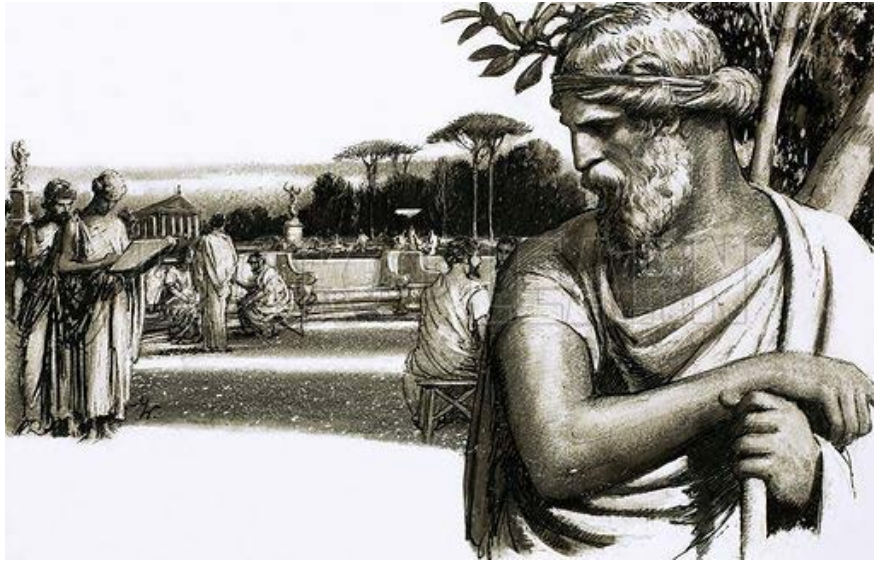


NIETZSCHE, *TWILIGHT OF THE IDOLS* (1889)

"For heaven's sake, do not throw Plato at me. I am a complete skeptic about Plato. . . . Plato is boring. In the end, my mistrust of Plato goes deep: he represents such an aberration from all the basic instincts of the Hellene, is so moralistic, so pre-existently Christian..."



IRIS MURDOCH, WRESTLING WITH PLATO ALL HER WRITING LIFE



**A ONE-SIDED VIEW OF CITY LIFE WHICH
DELETES THE NAVY AND THE DEMOCRACY?**

ALFRED NORTH WHITEHEAD, *PROCESS AND REALITY* (1929)

The safest general characterization of the European philosophical tradition is that it consists of a series of footnotes to Plato. I do not mean the systematic scheme of thought which scholars have doubtfully extracted from his writings. I allude to the wealth of general ideas scattered through them. His personal endowments, his wide opportunities for experience at a great period of civilization, his inheritance of an intellectual tradition not yet stiffened by excessive systematization, have made his writing an inexhaustible mine of suggestion. .

