**2nd Assignment: Plato**

What does the expression ‘Apology’ in the title of Plato's Dialogue mean?

We could think that the expression apology refers to the contemporary meaning of the word, which means that you are sorry for something you made. However, in the context of Plato’s Dialogue it refers to the speech of defense that Socrates makes. The word apology comes from the Greek apologia, which means defense or justification. This is indeed what happens in the Dialogue, Socrates never tries to apology for what he said and made, but on the contrary, to defend and justify his beliefs.

What does the Oracle at Delphi pronounce about Socrates?

How did Socrates respond to what the Oracle said about him and how does his response constitute a philosophical practice?

The Oracle pronounces that there wasn’t anyone wiser than Socrates. He replied that, as far as he knew, he wasn’t wise. In fact, Socrates stated “I am not at all wise, either much or little”. However, Socrates acknowledges that the Oracle was not saying something false, because “that is not sanctioned for him”. Because of this, Socrates transformed what the Oracle said into a question, and he began looking for an answer. He went and questioned the ones that were supposedly wiser. He talked with politicians, poets, artists and he realized that, although they were supposed to knew about what they were talking about, they didn’t. They were not wiser than him, or anybody else. They were just pretending to be wiser. This led him to a conclusion. He was indeed wiser, but not because he knew more than them, because he didn’t, but because he accepted his ignorance. He responded that he was wiser in that he knows that he knows nothing. I believe that this is a Philosophical practice because it creates questions that defy what we believe. It searches for the truth behind knowledge. What does being wise mean? Is wisdom based on knowledge or in acknowledging the lack of it? How could someone be wise based on accepting his own ignorance? This are questions that the answer from Socrates left us.

According to Plato’s ‘Allegory of the Cave’, what is the main task of a philosopher?

According to Socrates, the main responsibility of a philosopher is to return to the society all the knowledge that he obtained. He states, that the goal is not to provide happiness to a special group, but to as much people as possible.() In his metaphor, the ones that get out of the cave and gain comprehension of the world, should return to the cave and rule. It is not unfair, because the only reason they were able to understand the world is because of the education the society gave them. Philosophers may