



Discuss Aristotle's response to the following questions:
"What can we know and how do we arrive at kn

Western Philosophy (University of South Africa)



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Introduction to western philosophy

Name :

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Assignment 2

Semester 1

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DECLARATION

Name:

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INTRODUCTION

Aristotle, an important ancient Greek philosopher, addressed essential issues about what we can know and how we get knowledge of the universe. In his philosophical investigations, Aristotle deviated from his instructor Plato's views on epistemology, emphasizing key criticisms of Plato's beliefs. Understanding Aristotle's method for dealing with these problems involves diving into his empiricism, rejection of Platonic Forms, and stress on observation and experience as sources of information.

Aristotle regards philosophy as an extension of science, which means he seeks to fully understand the entire picture of the world, people, and society. In all of the shifting and opposing parts of our environment, he searches for the basic concepts that show the underlying pattern (Washburn, 2003).

Basic ideas such as mass, force, element, evolution, and so forth form the foundation of modern science. In order to explain everything, Aristotle developed three different ideas which are function, classification, and hierarchy. Aristotle placed more emphasis on the pursuit of precise definitions of objects in terms of their fundamental qualities than contemporary science, which places more emphasis on laws. He thought observation might be used by philosophy to identify solutions to issues. Aristotle understood the universe as an organism, but current science views it as a machine. This is just one more way that they change. Everything has a role to play, and growth and achieving one's goals are the basic elements of existence. This holds true for politics, the arts, ethics, and the natural world.

The foundation of Aristotle's epistemological system is empiricism, which highlights the value of sensory experience and observation in the process of learning. According to him, humans can get higher types of knowledge by reasoning and abstraction, starting with the senses. Aristotle prioritized the actual world as the principal field of study, as opposed to Plato, who claimed that transcendent forms existed and were the ultimate reality and source of knowledge.

Plato's idea of Forms holds that all else is an illusion as opposed to an imperfect duplicate. According to Aristotle, what is observable is the physical universe. He disagreed with Plato's transcendentalism, or the idea that there is a more pure reality that can only be understood intellectually.

Aristotle and Plato differ greatly in several important areas, one of which is how they interpret the Theory of Forms. According to Plato, the transcendent Forms, which stand for the actual substance of reality, are merely reflected in or an imperfect image of the material world. For Plato, knowledge didn't come from sensory experience but rather from the process of recalling or remembering these Forms via logical reflection.

Plato's Theory of Forms was attacked by Aristotle for a number of reasons. First of all, since these transcendent Forms were outside the bounds of human vision and experience, he questioned how possible it would be to contact them. According to Aristotle, information obtained from sensory experience from the material world is more comprehensible and useful to human knowledge.

Second, Aristotle disagreed with Plato's mixed metaphysics, which maintained a firm line between the world of forms and the material world. Rather, Aristotle put forward a more solid theory of reality

in which the forms and the physical world have a deep connection and are interdependent. Moreover,

Aristotle took issue with Plato's insistence on reflection and logical reasoning as the main ways to learn. He held that thorough investigation of the natural world and empirical observation should serve as the foundation for knowledge. Aristotle used a scientific method of knowledge that included classifying and evaluating empirical evidence in order to come up with broad ideas and worldviews.

Aristotle also tried to understand the essence of reality, but Plato maintained that reality was transcendent, that is, it existed somewhere outside of our senses. According to Aristotle, this world is our world. Although he agreed with Plato that knowledge needs to be universal and focused on the similarities between things, he disagreed with Plato's assertion that Forms could be distinguished from specific objects (Heather Wilburn, 2021).

CONCLUSION

Plato's idealism and general metaphysics are not in line with Aristotle's answers to the problems of what is known and how knowledge of the world is acquired. As a result of his rejection of transcendent Forms and emphasis on empirical observation, Aristotle established the groundwork for a more methodical and practical approach to knowledge acquisition. His objections to Plato's ideas highlight his dedication to a more practical and hands-on knowledge of reality (Heather Wilburn, 2021).

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