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### Reflection Paper

Plato's Allegory of the cave tells that what we believe in or what we are accustomed to may not always be the definite truth. That is the lesson I learned from the Allegory but Plato's intention clearly didn't include the "may" since he questions everything visible and claims that there is the world of forms. In my view, Plato may have imagined himself as the man who got out of the cave and has obtained some knowledge of the truth – tried to tell the people in the cave about his discoveries but no one believed him. Pushing aside that self-insert theory, the allegory shows the nature of people when it comes to beliefs.

People can't always accept what they have been told especially if that information questions or clashes on what they believe. This is natural, because if people just agreed with everything they hear, information won't have solid grounds and people will not have definite character. Like in religion, you can't expect a Muslim to accept the word of god from Christianity. Though the topic of religion can't be a complete real world example of the allegory which I will explain later. For now, let's go back to how people process information. People may have their own beliefs but that doesn't mean that they shouldn't give other information an ear. People should be always open to accepting knowledge before they begin to question or reject it. Having an open mind will give a man more understanding of his surroundings and broaden his perspective.

Now to why I claimed that religion can't be a real world example of the allegory. First point is that allegory showed one truth. That truth is that the images that the people see in the cave are just shadows created by the shapes because of the sun outside. Religion however isn't one truth because there are a lot of existing religion so we cannot pin point a single religion and call it the truth. I

believe in Christian Religion because I grew up with that religion, but what about people who grew up believing Buddhism. Can we claim that they are wrong this whole time? This therefore makes religion a belief instead of the truth. This brings us to the second point which is that if religion is a belief, then it isn't in Plato's world of forms which is instead is in the world of matter. In the allegory, the shadows represent the beliefs of the people in the cave and the sun producing these shadows along with the shapes forming the shadows represent the world of forms. Plato claimed that the visible world are just shadows formed by the world of forms. My horse, for example, can never fully fit the idea or form of "The Horse" or the very idea of what makes a horse a horse. Plato believed that the since the world of matter are just imitations from the world of forms, true knowledge would only come from the true essence in the world of forms.

From the ideas above we can get an extra point on why religion can't be the same as the Plato's allegory, which is the allegory is unfair compared to the topic of religion. The allegory showed that the people in the cave only needed to start trying out or giving what the man who got outside is saying a shot. From that effort they will be awarded with the definite truth of that situation. Religion, however, cannot truly show your eyes the truth because the belief that it is true or the sun in your allegory of the cave which is the form of good for Plato will only come from ourselves.