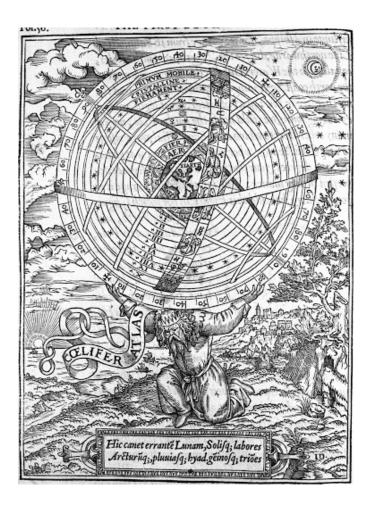
Tutorial 2 Aristotle How do we handle what nature tells us?

GFN1000 In Dialogue with Nature

Content

- 1. Aristotle's Ontology and Cosmology
- 2. The Four Causes
- 3. Aristotelian Teleology
- 4. Epistemology
- 5. Methodology



Aristotle's Ontology and Cosmology

- How do Plato and Aristotle understand "form" 1 and "change"
 2 differently?
- How does Aristotle explain terrestrial motion (such as the falling of a rock) (3) and celestial motion (4)?
- How do you understand "ours is a world of space, whereas Aristotle's was a world of place"? (p.41, para.31) 5

The Four Causes

- Give examples that cannot easily be explained by 1) the formal cause and those that cannot be explained by 2) the material cause 2.
- Give examples that cannot easily be explained by 3) the efficient cause and those that cannot be explained by 4) the final cause. (3)4)
- Which of the four causes most closely resembles how scientists currently define the "cause"? 51

Aristotelian Teleology

- Give examples that illustrate the teleological explanation for natural phenomena. ③
- Do you think the final cause can be empirically proved or disproved? 45
- What implications do you believe have arisen from the separation of the efficient cause and the final cause? Use examples to illustrate your view. 12

Epistemology

- What are the differences between Plato and Aristotle regarding their views on sense experience? (4)
- Give examples showcasing the significance of sense experience in exploring nature. (5)
- Give examples demonstrating that sense experience alone is not sufficient for discovering the truth. 1
- Which do you think is more subjective, logical reasoning or observation/measurement? 23

Methodology

- How does Aristotle view (controlled) experiments? Envision how a modern scientist would argue against him. 51
- Give examples demonstrating the fruitful use of experimentation in history.
- Give examples illustrating how human intervention might "prevent the nature of an object from revealing itself" (para.19) in scientific (3) and social-scientific (4) research.