

Josiah Kim

Professor Christopher Moore

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#### Grammata #14

The Eleatic visitor and Theaetetus come a problem about same-ness and difference which is most likely related to the discussion about the Sophist, who is a magician; a producer of apparitions. The nature of same-ness involves the “mixing” of things. They explore three possibilities about this topic: either everything mixes, nothing mixes, or some things mix. Since the first two seem impossible, the visitor and Theaetetus explore the third option through the example of change and rest. They come to the conclusion that these two shares in “being.” Particularly, “change is something that is not and something that is given that it shares in being” (256d8). Therefore, by speaking of what is not, you are speaking of difference which is, in fact, being - indicating that there is no possibility of speaking about what is not because everything shares in being.

The Sophist, who is a magician, is able to create apparitions and the question is whether these apparitions can be falsehoods. The one thing to separate the sophist from a philosopher is the concept of being able to spread falsehood. To examine this, the visitor and Theaetetus decide to talk about an obvious mode of the Sophistic profession to spread knowledge - speeches. If false speeches are possible, then it is confirmed that the sophist can transfer falsehoods in their speeches.

The visitor and Theaetetus agree that speeches need to be of something. Moving forward, they come to the conclusion that thought and speech are the same except that thought is internal dialogue of the soul and speech passes through the mouth. From this, they agree that all speech contains assertion and denial. Therefore, when applied to thought, it is none other than belief, and when something is believed to be true through perception, it is false belief. Then, the same can be applied to speech since it is equivalent to thought.

The final definition of sophistry incorporates a view of speaking what is not by having the characteristic of apparition-making. In this case, a sophist produces speeches about what is not; therefore, creating an illusion.