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PHIL 200

23 September 2019

Grammata #4

Socrates's first interaction with Theaetetus consisted of a "test" to see if Theaetetus was worthy of Theodorus's praise. This was exemplified by Socrates's examples of if he should immediately take the word of the "experts" (144e1). Socrates sees that Theaetetus is knowledgeable in various fields of study, and Socrates also has similar interests. Taking this into account he asks Theaetetus about the understanding of these subjects, then questions him about wisdom and knowledge.

Protagoras's "man is the measure" thesis relates to the question of knowledge in the fact that he, like Theaetetus, claims that knowledge is also a perception. Concisely, Protagoras says that one only really knows what one perceives; therefore, the only way to know anything at all is by means of one's own perception. Socrates goes farther to say in this case, "nothing ever is, it's always coming to be" (154e1). Since knowledge is perception, one's perception could be different than another's, so there never is an objective truth of one's being.

Towards the end of the reading Socrates turns his attention away from Theaetetus and engages mainly with Theodorus. Previously, Theaetetus persuaded Socrates not to engage with Theodorus justifying his age and the jeopardizing his reputation as an educator. Throughout the dialogue, Theodorus avoided being questioned; however, Socrates said "[t]here's no reason why I should be making every effort to support your dead friend while you make none at all" (168e7). He was reluctant and not happy with the idea of being questioned by Socrates.

[Word Count: 248]