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Being and Knowing
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Study Questions 1

Socrates does not seem to fear death for two reasons.

The first is that he has lived at least a portion of his life devoting himself to a cause he believes divine in nature. This cause is to prove that neither him nor any other human possess true wisdom, as true wisdom belongs only to the gods.

I personally don't have an causes that I find this meaningful, but it's a decent reason otherwise.

Socrates uses the terms 'good' and 'evil' to mean death may be a good or bad experience. As such, the second reason he does not fear death that death is completely unknown and mostly unknowable by living humans--death may be a great experience!

I don't find this to be a decent reason to abate fears of death. Personally I enjoy living, and I'm an atheist. As such, I don't know what's next, but I'd rather not gamble away an enjoyable experience. As a religious person, this argument could make sense.

Extra Stuff....

I find Socrates's arguments to be plausible but not entirely genuine. While exactly what he's accused of isn't known, but from Meletus's answers and inference, it would seem that Socrates is accused of atheism.

Both of Socrates's arguments rely at some point on his belief in god. Further, Socrates makes the argument that if he believes in supernatural events, then he believes in gods, but when he asks Meletus whether he agrees that Socrates believes in supernatural events, Meletus doesn't respond. Still, Socrates continues with the argument as though Meletus had confirmed Socrates' belief in the supernatural.

I get the sense that Socrates never really believed he would be convicted, and that these arguments would convince the jury that he believed in a god.