

The Third Man Argument

Aristotle's Response to Plato

1. If a number of things, a, b, c, all have property P, there must be a single universal F in virtue of which a, b, c are all P.
2. F is not identical to any of a, b, c.
3. F has property P.
4. Therefore, a, b, c, and F are all P.
5. If a, b, c, and F are all P, there must be another universal, G, in virtue of which a, b, c, and F are all P.
6. G is not identical to any of a, b, c, or F.
7. G has property P
8. and so on forever



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