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PHIL 205

Short Essay 2

The Declaration of Protagoras

So for some completely asinine reason, many of you people continue to doubt my measure doctrine, stating that anything is the way that it is because of how we humans perceive it. Everywhere I look, I see people claiming that I am crazy. That what I say makes no sense. There are people questioning my sanity because of my argument. Thus, I think that it is about time that I address all of these people and end this folly once and for all, with this declaration!

I believe it to be most wise to start off my elaborating on my measure doctrine and explaining exactly why my logic is sound, despite what many believe. Let us take a gust of wind. You are walking outside on your way to accomplish some menial task when you are hit with a breeze of air. You feel like the air is pretty cold and you start to feel a chill. At the same time, a man behind you is also hit by that breeze and they thought that the wind was not cold at all, but rather warm. You may be asking yourself, "Well who is right?" The answer is simple: both of us. As I have said before, things are what they are only in how we perceive them. To you, the wind is cold and to him, the wind is warm. Neither of you are wrong because the wind is only cold or warm because of how you perceive it.

Here is another example: a chair. To me the chair that I am currently looking at as I write this is small and the color red. This is my perception of the chair. It is completely plausible for someone else to come into this room and perceive the chair to be large and blue. The chair is small and red to me and large and blue to this other person. Who is correct? Both of us. I perceive the chair to small and red, while someone else perceives it to be large and blue. Similarly, if you put your hand in a pool of water and think that it is warm, you are correct. If someone else walks up and puts their hand in that same pool of water and thinks that it is cold, they are also right. The water is warm to you and cold to someone else. It is as simple as that.

Now that I have laid out my doctrine as such, I can already foresee a potential counterargument, as it is one that has already been placed before me multiple times prior to my writing this declaration, and it is that of this question. "While you may have a point with something as variable as water, wind, or even eyesight, what about something static and objective, such as size? Surely if someone is tall, it is impossible for someone to perceive that taller person as being shorter, right?" On the surface, it may seem as if this argument is legitimate and points out a flaw in my doctrine, but in actuality, this is not the case. If we were to

take these two people, with one man being taller than the other, it would appear as if that is the entire story. One man is tall, and another is short. But let us say that another man walks up, taller than the tall man. The tall man's status has changed from being tall to being short relative to the taller man. To the taller man, the tall man is short, while the short man still perceives the tall man as tall. Both characteristics are accurate.

I believe that should be enough to make it clear why my measure doctrine is still sound and, contrary to popular belief, not 'insane', or 'irrational', or 'nonsensical', as so many seem to think. Human perception dictates what makes something a certain way. A cup of water is hot because someone perceives it as such, as well as cold because someone else perceives it as such. Even in situations where the average person may think that it is impossible for something to be perceived differently, they would still be mistaken as it would vary depending on each individual person and how they relate to that particular trait. With that taken care of, I will gladly accept any apologies from those of you that doubted the brilliance of Protagoras. Until next time.