

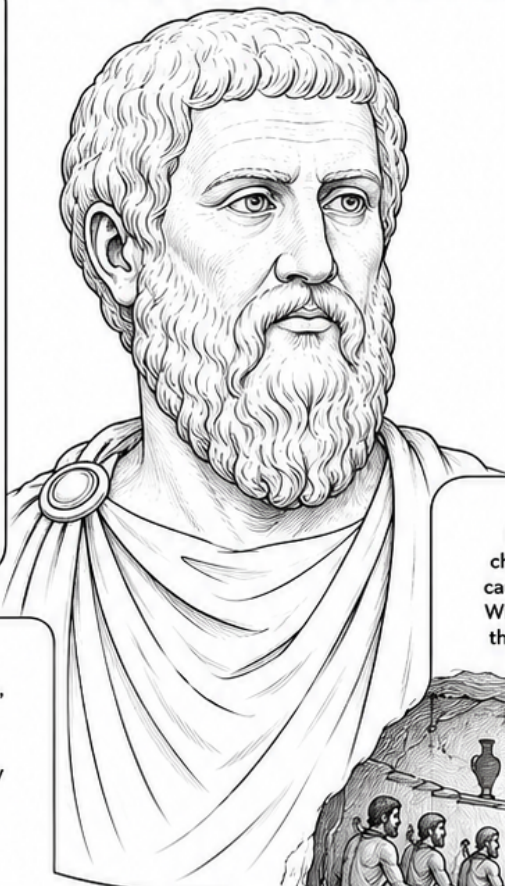
PLATO

c. 427 – c. 347 BCE

ANCIENT GREEK PHILOSOPHER

LIFE

- Plato was born in Athens around 427 BCE into an aristocratic family.
- He was a student of Socrates and was deeply influenced by his teacher.
- After Socrates' trial and execution in 399 BCE, Plato travelled before returning to Athens.
- Ancient writers say Plato travelled to Egypt and southern Italy.
- He returned to Athens and founded the Academy around 387 BCE, one of the first institutions of higher learning in the Western world.
- Plato died around 347 BCE.



PHILOSOPHY & IDEAS

- Plato believed in a world of perfect Forms or Ideas that exist beyond the physical world.
- The physical world is only a copy of these perfect Forms.
- His famous Allegory of the Cave explains how people mistake shadows (appearances) for reality.
- He believed the highest Good (the Form of the Good) is the source of truth, knowledge and beauty.
- He thought knowledge is found through reason and understanding, not through the senses alone.

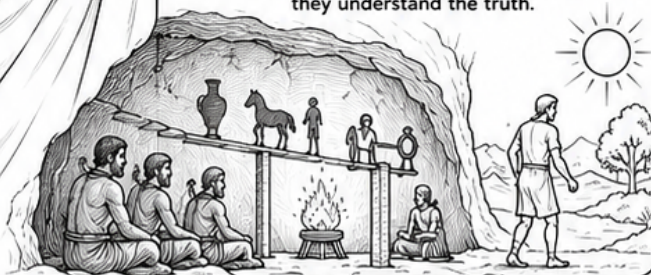
MAJOR WORKS

- *The Republic* – discusses justice, the ideal state and the role of philosopher-kings.
- *Phaedo* – about the immortality of the soul.
- *Symposium* – about love and its pursuit of the beautiful.
- *Phaedrus* – about the soul and true knowledge.



THE ALLEGORY OF THE CAVE

In the cave, prisoners are chained since childhood and see only shadows on a wall, caused by objects carried behind a low wall. When one is freed, turns around and leaves the cave to see the real world and the Sun, they understand the truth.



PLATO'S IDEAL STATE

In *The Republic*, Plato explains that a just state has three classes, each with its own role.



GUARDIANS (RULERS)

Wise and brave leaders who rule with reason for the common good.



AUXILIARIES (SOLDIERS)

Courageous helpers who protect the state and obey the rulers.



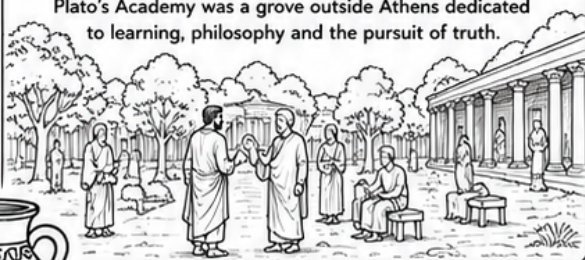
PRODUCERS (WORKERS)

Farmers, craftsmen and traders who provide the goods the state needs.

Justice happens when each part does its own job and does not interfere with the jobs of others.

PLATO'S ACADEMY IN ATHENS

Plato's Academy was a grove outside Athens dedicated to learning, philosophy and the pursuit of truth.



DID YOU KNOW?

Plato taught Aristotle, who went on to become the teacher of Alexander the Great.

"The unexamined life is not worth living."

– Plato