

# FORBIDDEN KNOWLEDGE

## 1. What Is Knowledge? How Can We Know What We Know?

- a. Epistemology
  - ✓ The science of knowing
- b. Methodology
  - ✓ The science of finding out

## 2. Epistemological Theories

- a. Rationalism:  
*Cogito ergo sum*: “I think; therefore, I am” (Descartes –early 17<sup>th</sup> century)
- b. Empiricism
- c. Naïve Realism (aka Common-Sense Realism):
- d. Representationalism:
  - ✓ Veil of perception

See these MC Escher pieces:

- Belvédère (1958)
- Ascending and Descending (1960)
- Waterfall (1961)

- e. Idealism
  - ✓ Ideal Constructs
    - Socrates (469-399 BC)
    - Socratic method
    - Execution of Socrates in 399

f. Plato (427-347 BC)✓ *The Republic* (Πολιτεία), c. 360 BC

- 10 books
- Socrates engaging in dialectical dialogue
- Glaucon
- Books VI and VII

## ✓ Ideal Constructs/ Ideal Forms

## ✓ The Divided Line

✓

Knowledge (Episteme)		Opinion (Doxa)	
A	B	C	D
<b>Pure knowledge (ἔπιστήμη)</b> <b>rational (involves dialectic method)</b> <b>leads to knowledge of Forms</b> <b>ultimate is knowledge of the Form of The Good</b>	<b>Understanding (διάνοια)</b> <b>Ex: derived from applied through “pure” mathematics</b>	<b>Belief (πίστις)</b> <b>Common-sense “belief” in the reality of everyday objects</b>	<b>Illusion (εἰκασία)</b> <b>unenlightened thought that takes everything at face value</b>

- World of Forms (μορφή)
- Dialectic process of reasoning: rationalism(ἔπιστήμη) → **The Good**.
- World of Change (γίγνομένου)

✓ Sun as Metaphor for Form of the Good (Book VI, *Republic*)

- **Metaphor**
- **Simile**
- **Allegory**

**For Plato, that which is GOOD is just and right and reasonable**

g. Plato and *The Allegory of the Cave* (Book VII, *Republic*)

- ✓ **The prisoners**
- ✓ **The fire**
- ✓ **The shadows**
- ✓ **The “chains”**
- ✓ **The roadway**
- ✓ **The role of the teacher → guide student toward “pure knowledge of The Good”**

✓ The Allegory of the Cave in Popular Culture

*The Matrix* (Warner Bros., 1999)

Jack Johnson’s “Inaudible Melodies” from *Brushfire Fairytales*

Brushfire fairytales  
 Itsy bitsy diamond wells  
 Big fat hurricanes  
 Yellow bellied given names  
 Well shortcuts can slow you down  
 And in the end we're bound  
 To rebound off of we

Well dust off your thinking caps  
 Solar powered plastic plants  
 Pretty pictures of things we ate  
 We are only what we hate  
 But in the long run we have found  
 Silent films are full of sound  
 Inaudibly free

Slow down everyone  
 You're moving too fast  
 Frames can't catch you when  
 You're moving like that

Inaudible melodies  
 Serve narrational strategies  
 Unobtrusive tones  
 Help to notice nothing but the  
 zone  
 Of visual relevancy  
 Frame-lines tell me what to see  
 Chopping like an axe

Or maybe Eisenstein should just  
 relax

Slow down everyone  
 You're moving too fast  
 Frames can't catch you when  
 You're moving like that

**Well Plato's cave is full of freaks  
 Demanding refunds for the things  
 they've seen  
 I wish they could believe  
 In all the things that never made  
 the screen  
 And just slow down everyone  
 You're moving too fast**

Frames can't catch you when  
 You're moving like that  
 Slow down everyone  
 You're moving too fast  
 Frames can't catch you when  
 You're moving like that  
 Moving Too...