

When Philosophers talk about knowledge, they usually talk about it in conjunction with the fulfilling of certain conditions.

But when we use the word knowledge in our ordinary, everyday life, it isn't as rigorous as this.

Ask: When do we say that someone KNOWS something?

In Plato's Meno, knowledge is presented to us in propositional form. It is suggested that X has knowledge of some proposition, P, if P is true and X believes P.

- Proposition - a statement which is either true or false
 - Ex: "Harbor College is in Los Angeles", "The Broncos won Superbowl 50", "Galileo was placed under house arrest in 1633"
- X believes that Harbor College is in the Los Angeles.
 - Question : Does X have knowledge if Harbor College is in the Los Angeles?
- X believes there is life on Neptune
 - Question : Does X have knowledge if there is life on Neptune? i.e. would we look back in time and said "X knew the whole time?"
- Question : Is true belief ever sufficient to claim that someone has knowledge?

Plato says that true belief is not sufficient for knowledge. What we need is *justified* true belief.

- We need some type of justification for why X has arrived at some belief.
- X has been to Harbor College many times, lives in Los Angeles, and has looked at Harbor College on a map.
 - X believes Harbor College is in the Los Angeles
 - It is true that Harbor College is in the Los Angeles
 - Lastly, X provides justification for his belief.
- Now what of the belief that there is life on Neptune?

Plato is particularly concerned with Empirical Knowledge.

Empirical Knowledge - relies upon sense experience for justification

Apriori Knowledge - does not rely upon sense experience for justification

Many Medieval philosophers believed that the source of true knowledge came only from divine sources.

Scripture

Priests or Prophets

Meditations

Divine Commandment

There were some who resisted this notion. Namely Boethius, who believed that humans could not have knowledge like God has knowledge.

God is an Unlimited being who is not bound by space and time. So for God, everything must happen in one fell swoop.

Humans are limited beings who are bound by space and time, so they cannot know things like God knows things. The controversy being that God cannot share understanding or knowledge of the world with humans.

So the Modern Philosophers are under the impression that science has to go back to basics.

Bacon - We see things and jump to immediate conclusions. This makes sense for us because it leaves less unknown factors in the world. Stereotypes and Rendering.

What is he really talking about?