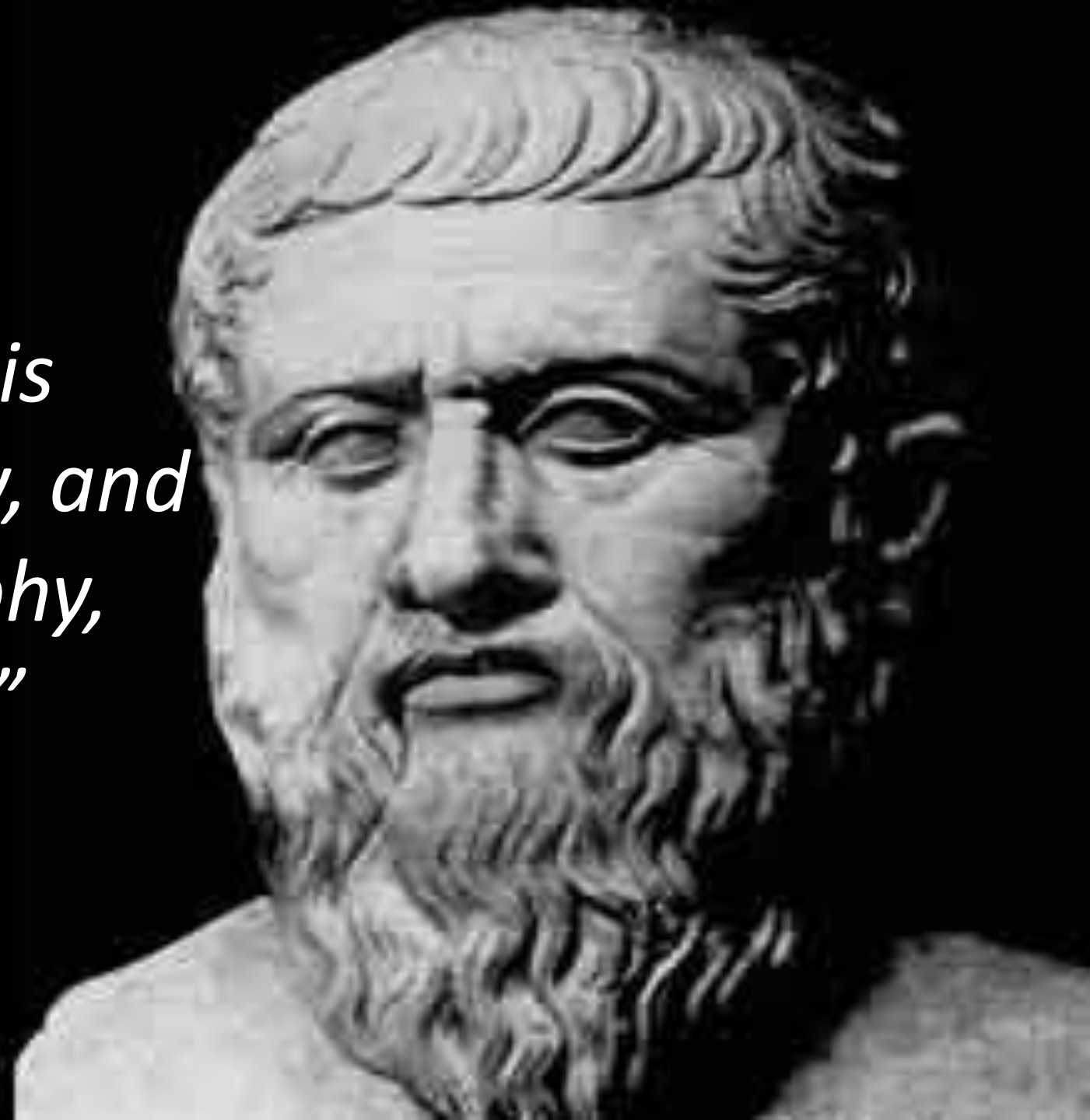
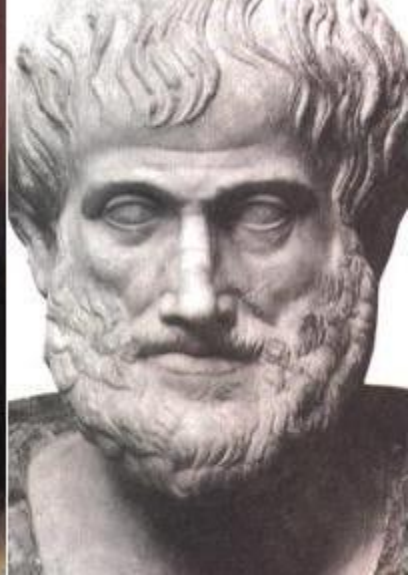
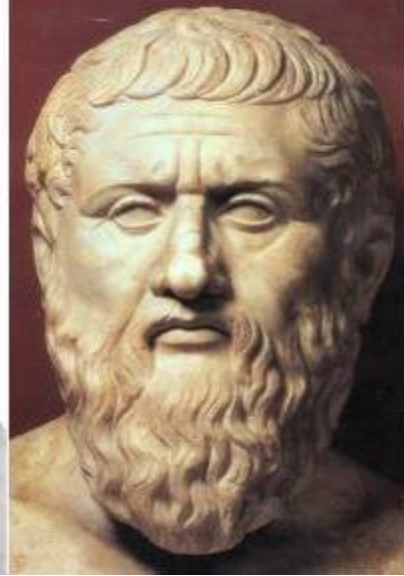
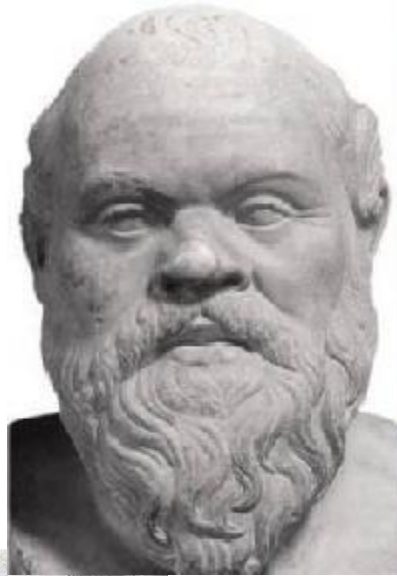


*“Plato is  
philosophy, and  
Philosophy,  
Plato.”*



# PLATONISM

- Denies the reality of the material world.
- We use eyes for sight, but eyes and objects to be seen are not enough, we need a third thing, that is light. Hence, Plato asks us to use our mind instead of senses to perceive reality.
- Material world is only an image or copy of the real world.



# Art

## Plato condemns

- Metaphysical- Goal of man is to discover truth. But art imitates the imitation of the ideal world and hence is far removed from truth.
- Ethical- He condemns art where passion prevails over reason.

## Plato glorifies

- Art contributes to spiritual growth of people.
- Poetry is a lofty and mysterious creation of man.
- Prefers art that highlights truth to pleasure.

# PLATO'S STATE

- Society has a tripartite class structure.
  - Appetite/spirit/reason-analogous to the castes of a society
  - Appetite-workers- labourers, carpenters, plumbers, masons etc.
  - Spirit-protective- warriors, guardians, armed forces
  - Reason-governing- intelligent, rational, self-controlled, in love with wisdom, well suited to make decisions for the community
-

# Epistemology

- Knowledge is innate- we are born possessing all knowledge
- Nothing is ever learnt, it is only recalled.
- Soul is immortal, and repeatedly incarnated; knowledge is actually in the soul from eternity but each time the soul is incarnated its knowledge is forgotten in the trauma of birth. What one perceives to be learning, then, is actually the recovery of what one has forgotten.



## ALLEGORY OF THE CAVE

Plato compares human beings to prisoners chained to a cave, in such a manner that they can only face the blank wall, with their back to the opening of the cave. When people pass outside the cave, their shadows move on the wall against the light of a fire. The prisoners mistake this for reality. Only those who escape from the cave are able to realise that they had been seeing shadows and not the real world.



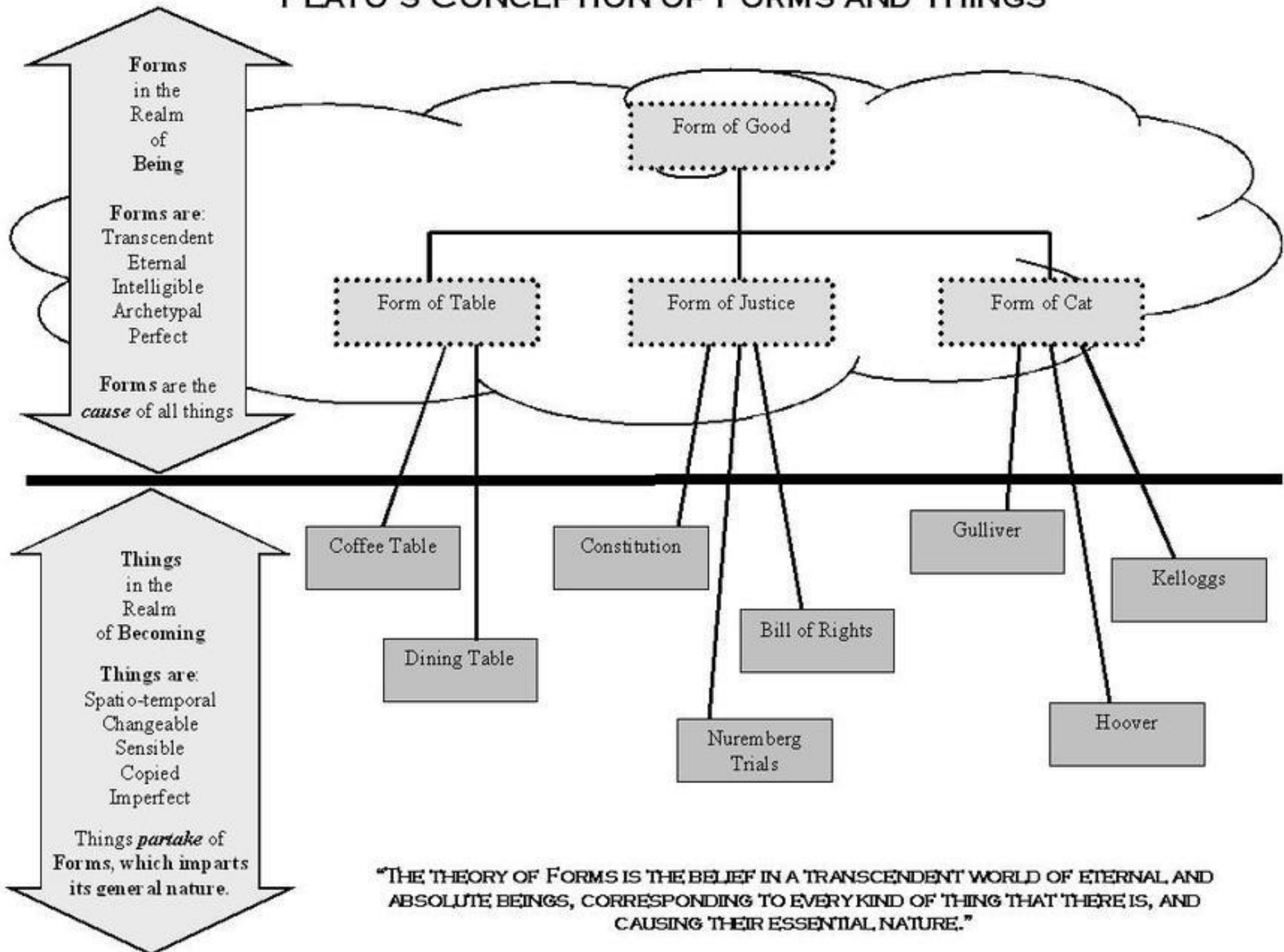
# ALLEGORY OF THE CAVE

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- ❖ The human condition- we see only a reflection of the real world and take it for reality.
- ❖ Theory of forms - non-material abstract forms (or ideas), and not the material world of change known to us through sensation, possess the highest and most fundamental kind of reality.
- ❖ Plato was contemptuous of those who limited reality to that which is perceptible by the senses.







# PLATO'S CONCEPTION OF FORMS AND THINGS



**"THE THEORY OF FORMS IS THE BELIEF IN A TRANSCENDENT WORLD OF ETERNAL AND ABSOLUTE BEINGS, CORRESPONDING TO EVERY KIND OF THING THAT THERE IS, AND CAUSING THEIR ESSENTIAL NATURE."**



# The Sun

Source	 The Sun	The (Form of the) Good
Provides what?	Light, growth	Reality, truth – 'light of reason'
Where?	Sensible world	Intelligible World
In order to...	 See	 Know
With what?	 Objects i.e. 'particulars'	<b>FORMS</b>

The  
allegory of  
the cave

