

“The moment is not properly an atom of time but an atom of eternity. It is the first reflection of eternity in time, its first attempt, as it were, at stopping time.”

—The Concept of Anxiety, ch. III, p.88 (IV 358)

“Man is spirit. But what is spirit? Spirit is the self. But what is the self? The self is a relation which relates itself to its own self, or it is that in the relation [which accounts for it] that the relation relates itself to its own self; the self is not the relation but [consists in the fact] that the relation relates itself to its own self. Man is a synthesis of the infinite and the finite, of the temporal and the eternal, of freedom and necessity, in short it is a synthesis.”

— Sickness unto Death, ch. 1, p. 1

“When death is the greatest danger, one hopes for life; but when one becomes acquainted with an even more dreadful danger, one hopes for death. When the danger is so great that death has become one's hope, then despair is the hopelessness of not even being able to die.”

— Sickness unto Death, ch. 1, p. 14

“Now it's over I'm dead and I haven't done anything that I want, or I'm still alive and there's nothing I want to do.”

—They Might Be Giants, *Dead*, chorus

Hedonism, Freedom, and Democracy → Tyranny in Plato's Republic

1. Knowledge vs. Power (Plato)
2. Knowledge as Power (Bacon)

Intrinsic Value / Instrumental Value

Reason can tell us what we ought to do

Reason can only tell us how to be efficient

Ought / Is

Irony/Deception in Plato

Axioms are Mythic

Aristotle: we think we have knowledge of a thing only when we have grasped its cause (aitia)

- The material cause (hyle): “that out of which”, e.g., the bronze of a statue.
- The formal cause (morphe): “the form”,
 - “the account of what-it-is-to-be”, e.g., the shape of a statue. ~essence

- The efficient cause (kinou -> kinetic): “the primary source of the change or rest”,
 - e.g., the artisan, the art of bronze-casting the statue, the man who gives advice, the father of the child.
- The final cause (telos): “the end, that for the sake of which a thing is done”, ~function/action/energeia.
 - e.g., health is the end of walking, losing weight, purging, drugs, and surgical tools.

Poetics: Experience can give us knowledge / Poesis/Art/Imitation/ clarifies the world

- Muthos (plot) / Praxis (story)
- Hierarchy
- necessity, likelihood, inevitability (causal links in a narrative)
- the impossible and the improbable
- Deus ex machine (apò mēkhanês theós)