

Reading Assignment 6: Plato's Theory of Recollection

REQUIRED READINGS

- Plato 1997a. Lines 79e - 86a
- Plato 1997b. Lines 72e - 77a

QUESTIONS

1. Plato's dialogue *Meno* investigates the question, ``What is virtue?'' In the passages that I have assigned you to read, Meno presents an argument, now sometimes called ``Meno's Paradox'', that purports to show that it is impossible to find a correct answer to the question ``What is virtue?'' In your own words, summarize Meno's argument in a few sentences.
2. What does Socrates intend to show by questioning the slave boy about geometry?
3. Explain what Socrates means, in *Phaedo*, when he discusses the ``deficiency'' in equality that we recognize when comparing two sticks or stones.

REFERENCES

- [1] Plato. ``Meno''. In: *Complete works*. Ed. by J. M. Cooper and D. S. Hutchinson. Hackett Publishing, 1997, pp. 870–897.
- [2] Plato. ``Phaedo''. In: *Complete works*. Ed. by J. M. Cooper and D. S. Hutchinson. Hackett Publishing, 1997, pp. 49–100.