

## PRE-SEMINAR



### "The Allegory of the Cave" (p7)

[Glaucou] "True," he said, "I had forgotten."

[Socrates] "Observe, Glaucou, that there will be no injustice in compelling our philosophers to have a care and providence of others; we shall explain to them that in other States, men of their class are not obliged to share in the toils of politics: and this is reasonable, for they grow up at their own sweet will, and the government would rather not have them. Being self-taught, they cannot be expected to show any gratitude for a culture which they have never received. But we have brought you into the world to be rulers of the hive, kings of yourselves and of the other citizens, and have educated you far better and more perfectly than they have been educated, and you are better able to share in the double duty. Wherefore each of you, when his turn comes, must go down to the general underground abode, and get the habit of seeing in the dark. When you have acquired the habit, you will see ten thousand times better than the inhabitants of the cave, and you will know what the several images are, and what they represent, because you have seen the beautiful and just and good in their truth. And thus our State which is also yours will be a reality, and not a dream only, and will be administered in a spirit unlike that of other States,

truth is that the State in which the ruler is reluctant to govern is always the best and most quietly governed, and the State in which the ruler is most eager, the worst."

[Glaucou] "Quite true," he replied.

[Socrates] "And will our pupils, when they refuse to take their turn at the toils of the State, they are allowed to spend the greater part of their time with one another in the heaven?"

[Glaucou] "Impossible," he answered; "if the rulers are just men, and the commands which are laid upon them are just; there can be no fault-finding; every one of them will take office as a duty, and not after the fashion of the tyrants, rulers of State."

[Socrates] "Yes, my friend," I said; "that is the point. You must contrive for yourself a better life than that of the prisoners; then you may have a well-ordered State in the State which offers this, will the rulers be truly rich, not in silver and gold, but in wisdom, which are the true blessings. Whereas if they go to the adminis-