

Allusion Notes: Plato's "Allegory of the Cave"

- People lived chained as prisoners in a cave facing a wall.
- All that they can see are shadows of things that pass behind them.
- The shadows become the prisoners' reality.
- One man escapes and leaves the cave. He goes into the real world and is able to "see."
- He returns to the cave to enlighten and save the other prisoners.
- The prisoners resist being freed from the cave and their "blindness."
- Plato uses this to suggest that people cannot escape our bondage. We prefer blindness over seeing the reality of life.

- Plato suggests that Philosophers are the “freed prisoner” and the rest of us are blind.
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