

Introduction to Aristotle

General

B. Differences

Plato

Aristotle

patrician Athenian

Mac doctor's son

concerned w otherworldly Forms  
(but this world not illusory or  
unintell)

concerned w this world: biology,  
physics

thoroughgoing Rationalist  
humans are mind/body comp

empirically oriented, K from senses  
no-dualist; rational animals

C. Similarities on board

1. Both think skepticism fails
2. Both think relativism fails
3. Both think full explanations in science and morality possible

D. A sees himself as moderate between Presoc. and Plato: matter & form

E. A. concerned with

1. Change-qualitative
2. Persistence of things through change
3. Generation- unqualified change, coming to be.

I *Physics* I. 1,2, 5-9

A. I.1: we must find first princ, archai

B. Nature= physical things generally

C. How many principles are there? We must find out if P. is right about one, H. about all in flux.

D. Things are said to be in many ways: 185a 20

E. Methodology: he starts with what is ordinarily thought and does dialectic by moving on to K

II. Response to Heraclitus

A. Things are said to come to be in many ways: 190a32.

B. All is not in flux or it would be good & not good at once, man & dog.

III Response to P.

A. Plurality and change are not impossible and unreal. Things are said to be in many ways: substances, qualities, quantities.

B. In 5-9 he gives acct. of nature of change

C. Change involves opposites and an underlying thing; so 189b32

simple and compound things: man, musical, musical man

D. Chap. 7 on 2 kinds of change

1. Where underlying subject is a definite thing, it lacks & then acquires a characteristic. **X COMES TO BE Y. QUALIFIED**

2. Where underlying thing is a material, it's first unformed, gets a form (bronze comes to be a statue) **X COMES TO BE. UNQUAL.**

**190b1: things which come to be come from**

**underlying things.** Case of living things: they come to be from a seed, so they come to be by addition. Substances come to be from matter.

E. So there are 3 principles: underlying thing & 2 opp.

F. So 191a24: what is can't come to be, and nothing can come to be from what is not. But an opp. can come to be \_\_\_ from what is not \_\_\_ in sense of K from ignorance, a statue from what is not a statue.

G. So we can have both the persistence of things over time and change at the same time. The underlying thing persists while the properties change.

H. 191a24: final response to P

#### IV. Summary

A. There must be 3 principles to world, and they explain how different changes occur.

B. So there is more than One, and not infinite number of principles.

C. There are two ways to divide up stuff of world: substances and properties. They are simple, but can be combined. This helps us with model of change.

D. In any change, SOMETHING remains the same. So is there some way in which e.g. a person can change and still remain a person? Some essence? Ship of Theseus.

E. If things are compounds of form and matter, is it poss. to have pure form or pure matter?

#### V. *Physics* II

A. His account of nature: nature is a sort of source and cause of changing in that to which it belongs -192b20

B. Two possible candidates for nature: form and matter. Matter is underlying thing, form the shape or pattern of the thing.  
Ex: pen.

C. Matter as candidate: 193a9: a bed that is buried in the ground sends up a shoot, and it's wood, not a bed. So its nature is the underlying matter.

D. But 193a30: the nature is form, since the form is what a thing is actually, not potentially. Men come to be from men.

VI. Summary: what is A doing here in *Ph.*?

- A. Trying to refute H and P
- B. Giving an account of nature that works, using change to separate underlying things or subjects from qualities
- C. Starting to give us an account of essence
- D. Moving toward an account of causation, the "why" of a thing

VII. II.3: four causes

- A. material, formal, efficient, final