

PLATO'S REPUBLIC

Autumn 2024

Part 2 | Week 1

Why philosophers are not valued



Republic: On Justice

“*Kallipolis*”

beautiful city

*“We set about founding an ideal state,
being sure we should find justice in it
because it was good.”*

(p.434e)

- Book I: Inconclusive dialogue on justice (personal), presenting as a “prelude”
- Book II: Begins the project of building an ideal polity that is *just*
- Book III: On education in criticism of traditional cultural education (poetry)
- Book IV: Psycho-social concerns, the role of family and women
- Book V-VI: The allegorical section envisaging the mystical “form of the good”
- Book VII: Allegory of the cave + education program (maths and dialectic)
- Book VIII: Devolution of government types (from a just kingdom to tyranny)
- Book IX: A closer look at tyranny as a degeneration of democracy
- Book X: Appendix on representational arts + immortality (Myth of Er)

Some key Greek terms introduced in the *Republic*

Αρετη *arete* | excellence, virtue, well-being

The four cardinal virtues (tradition?) are wisdom, courage, temperance & **justice**.

Δικη/δικαιοσυνη *dike/dikaiosune* | just/justice, right, righteousness “doing right” as in “doing the right thing.” For Plato it is about balance and harmony.

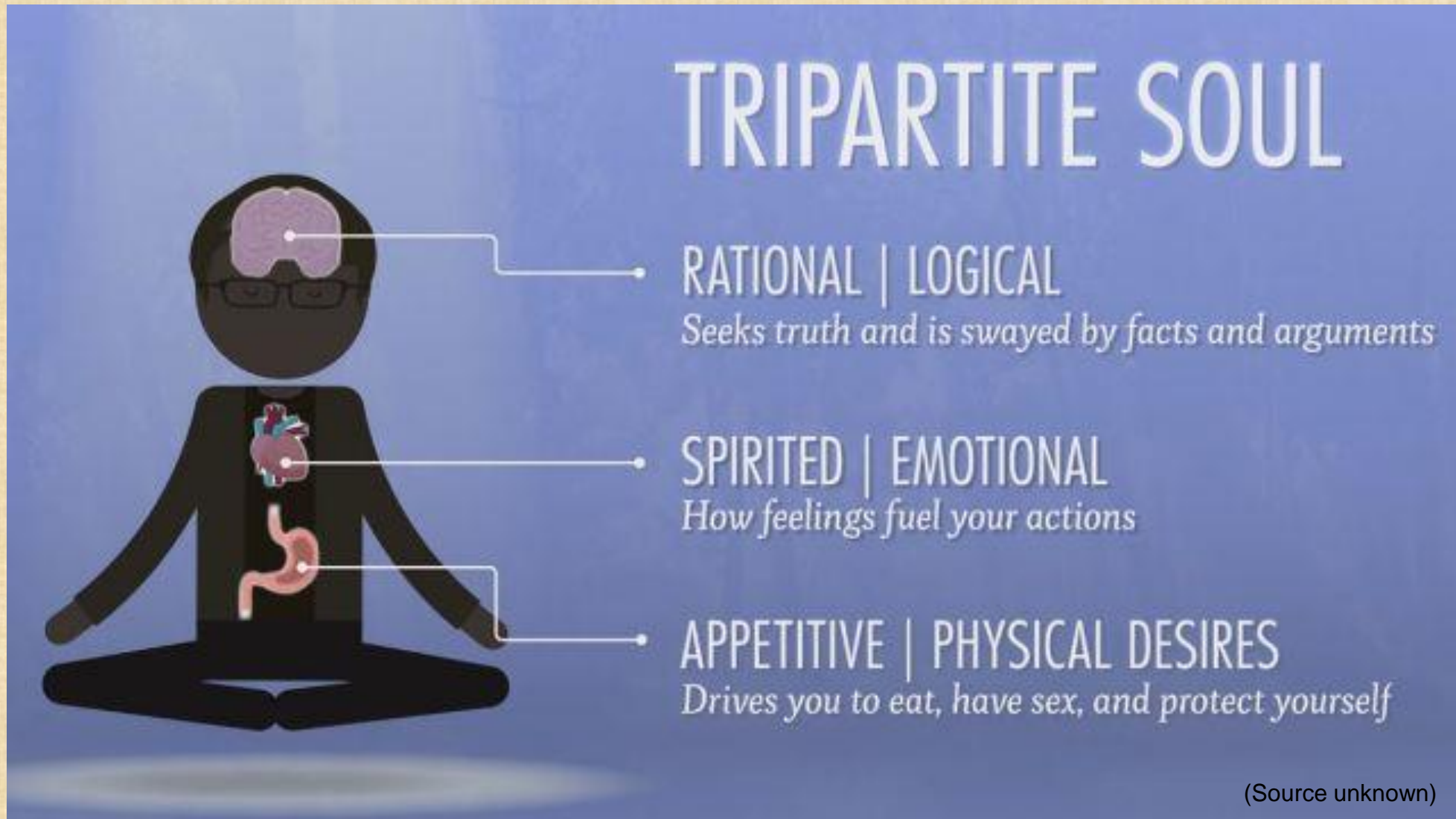
Καλος *kalos* | fine, fair, beautiful, noble | hence, *kallipolis* or “beautiful city”
(mentioned in class but not in Bk1)

Λογος *logos* | of speech | reason, an account of something
| of reality | relation or ratio, the sameness in difference, mathematical ratio

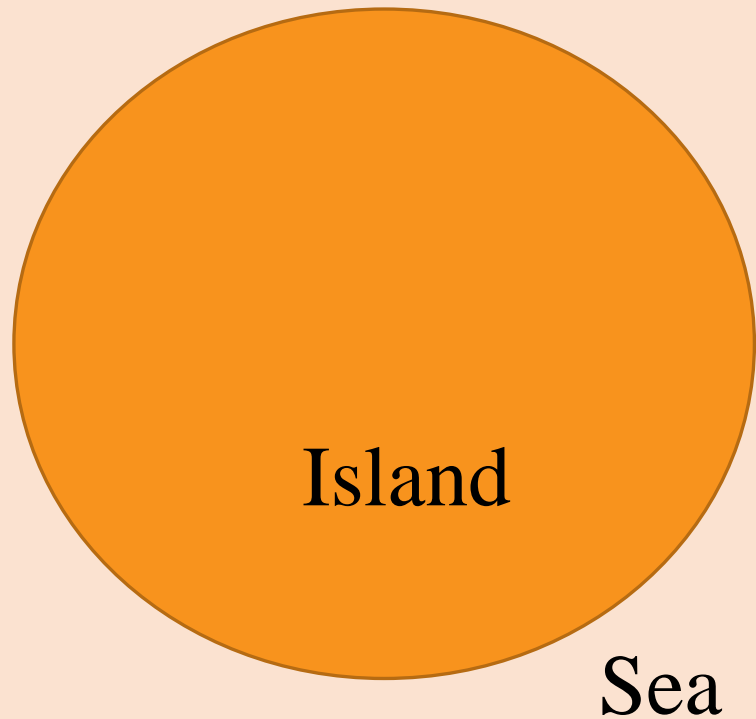
Τεχνη *techne* | art, craft, skill | for example the art of the tailor or the physician.

Ψυχη *psyche* | animated life (breath), soul

The personae has three active sources

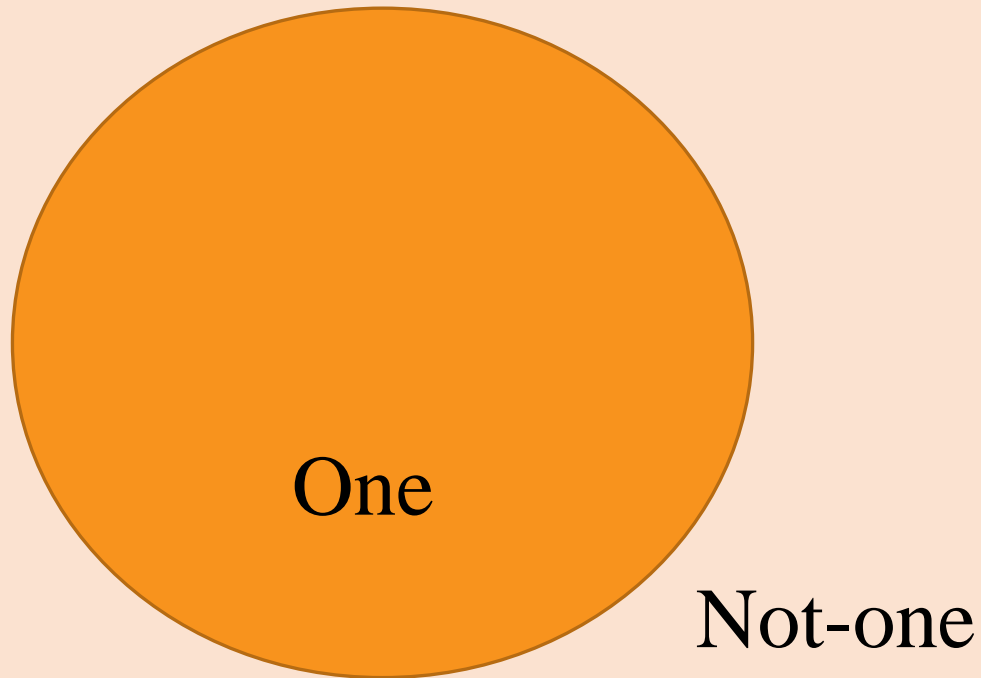


One as an Opposites: The island is one



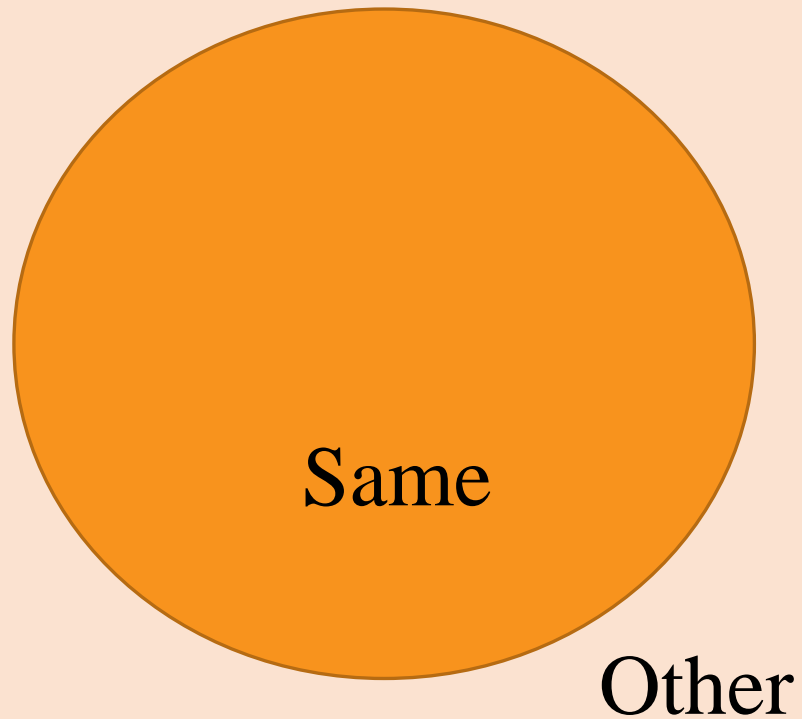
- Three-in-One: The *shore* distinguishes between *island* and the *sea*.
- A *same/other* differential value
- The other is 'in' the same as what it *is not*.

One as a complementary opposites



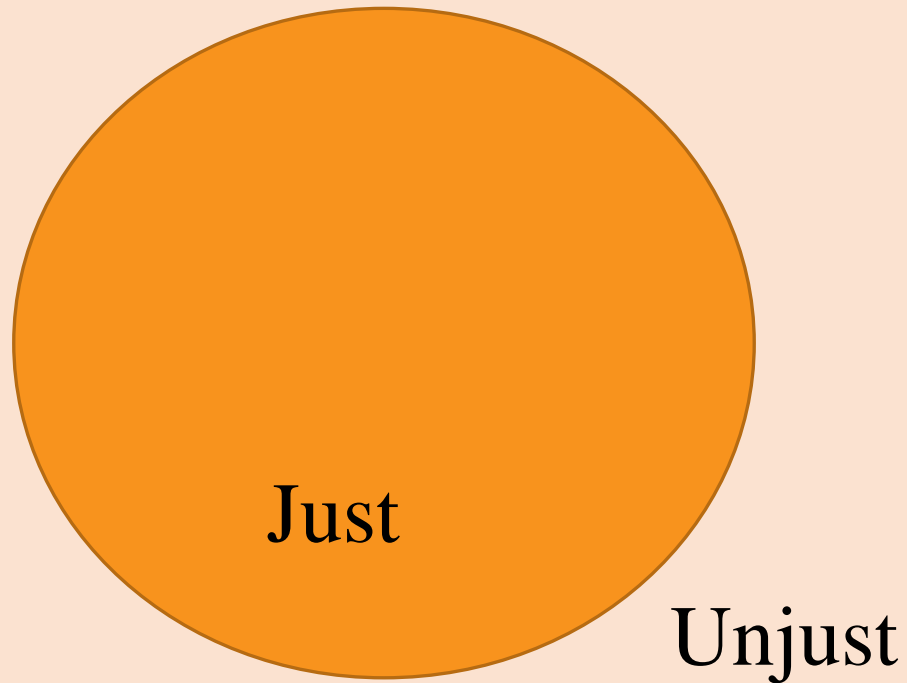
Using geometry to make a distinction of one thing from its negation: One/not-one

One as an Opposites: The other-in-the-same



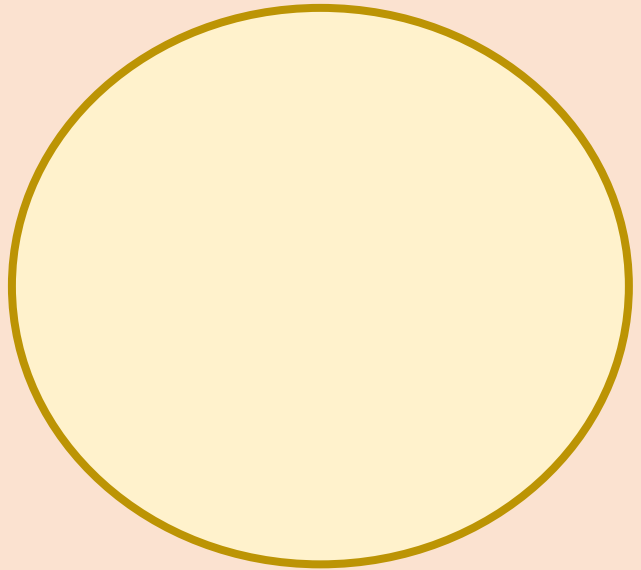
- Three-in-One: The *distinction* between *inside* and *outside*.
- A *same/other* differential value (an asymmetry of value)
- The other is 'in' the same as what it *is not*.

A form as an Opposites: Justice is one



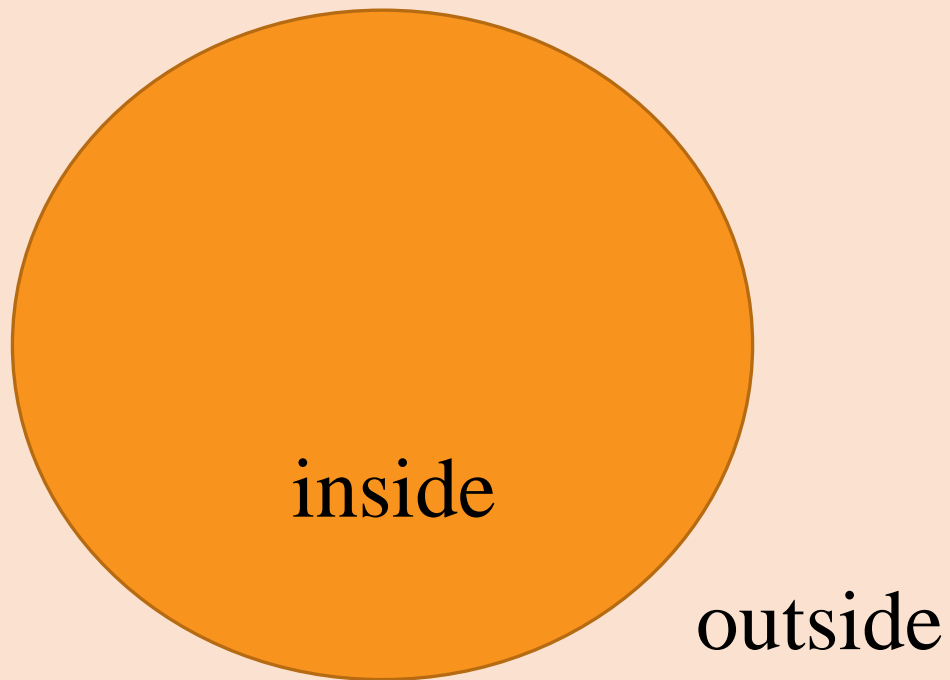
- Three-in-One: The *distinction* between *inside* and *outside*.
- A *same/other* differential value (asymmetrical)
- The unity of the form is in the distinction

One as an Opposites



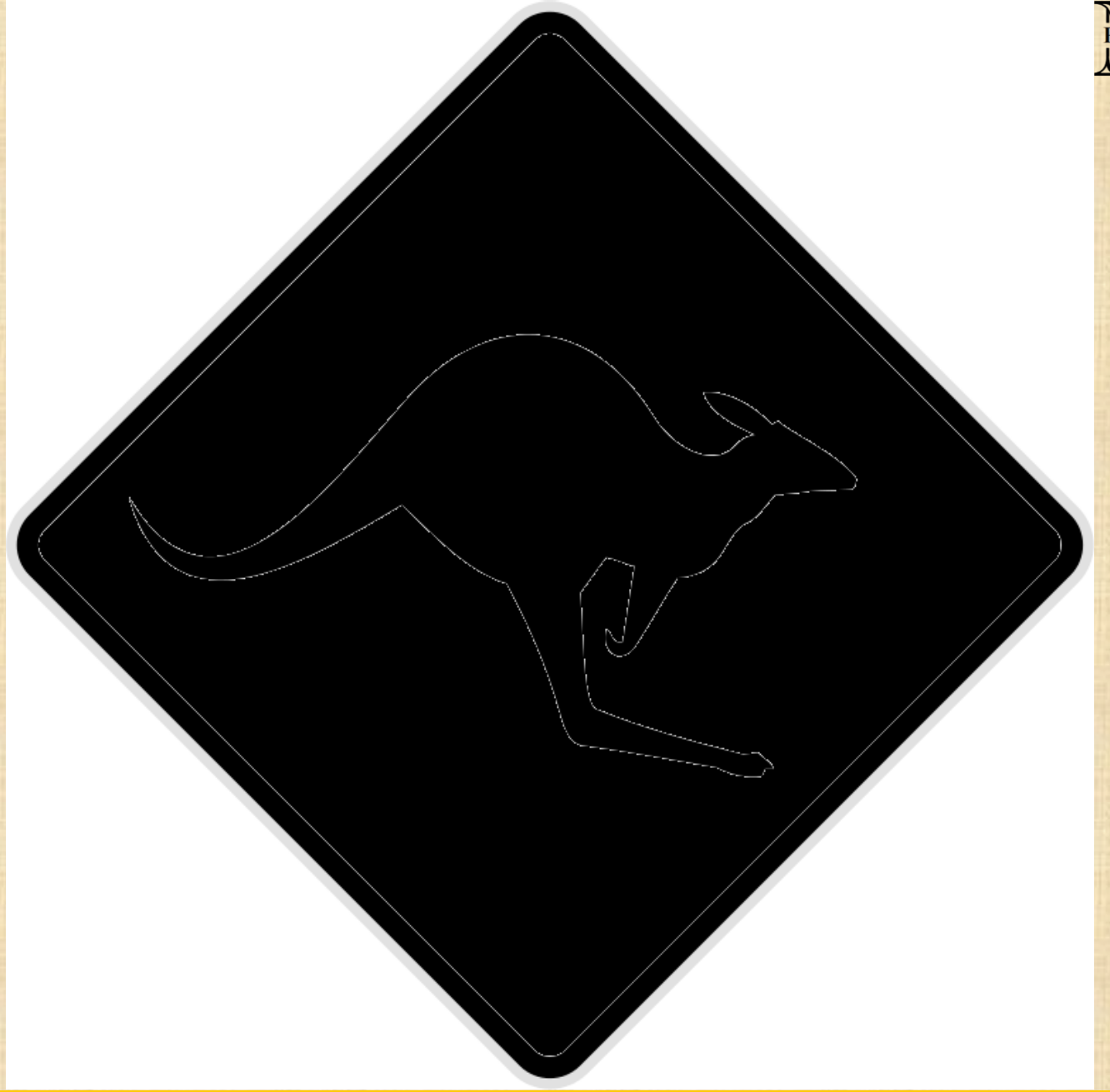
*Using geometry to express one as an opposite:
the distinction of inside from outside*

One as a complementary opposites



*Using geometry to make a distinction
of inside from outside.
The distinction is like a cut.*

Foreground / Background



Foreground / Background



Foreground / Background



Raphael's School of Athens

