

# PLATO'S REPUBLIC

Autumn 2024

Part 2 | Week 3

The analogy of light | Divided Line | The Cave



# The Sun and Sunlight Analogy

*Just as*

The Sun *is to* things visible to the eye,

*So*

The Good *is to* invisible forms seen by the mind's eye.

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**Ana-logia: in same ratio (logos)**

**a is to b as c is to d**

**1 : 2 as 3 : 6**

# The analogy of vision and the visible

*Just as*

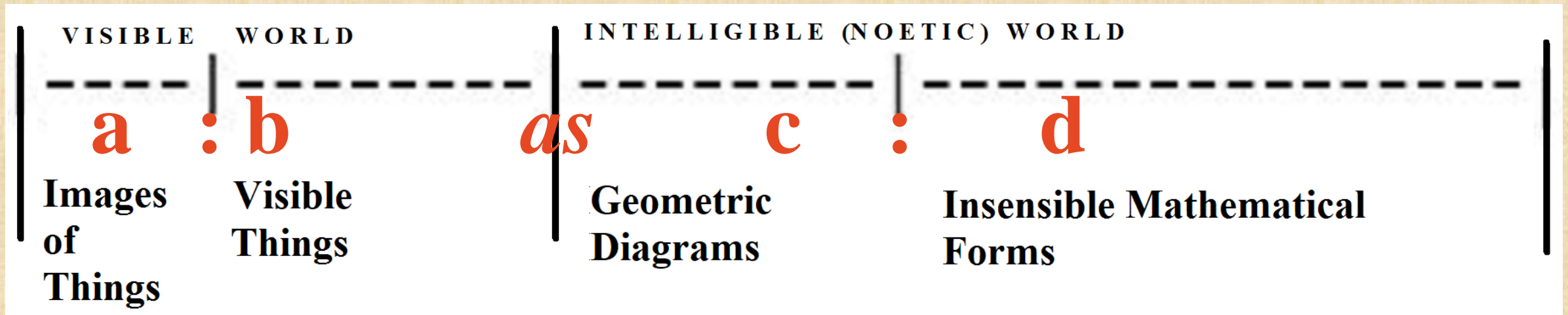
Shadows of visible things *are to* visible things,

*So*

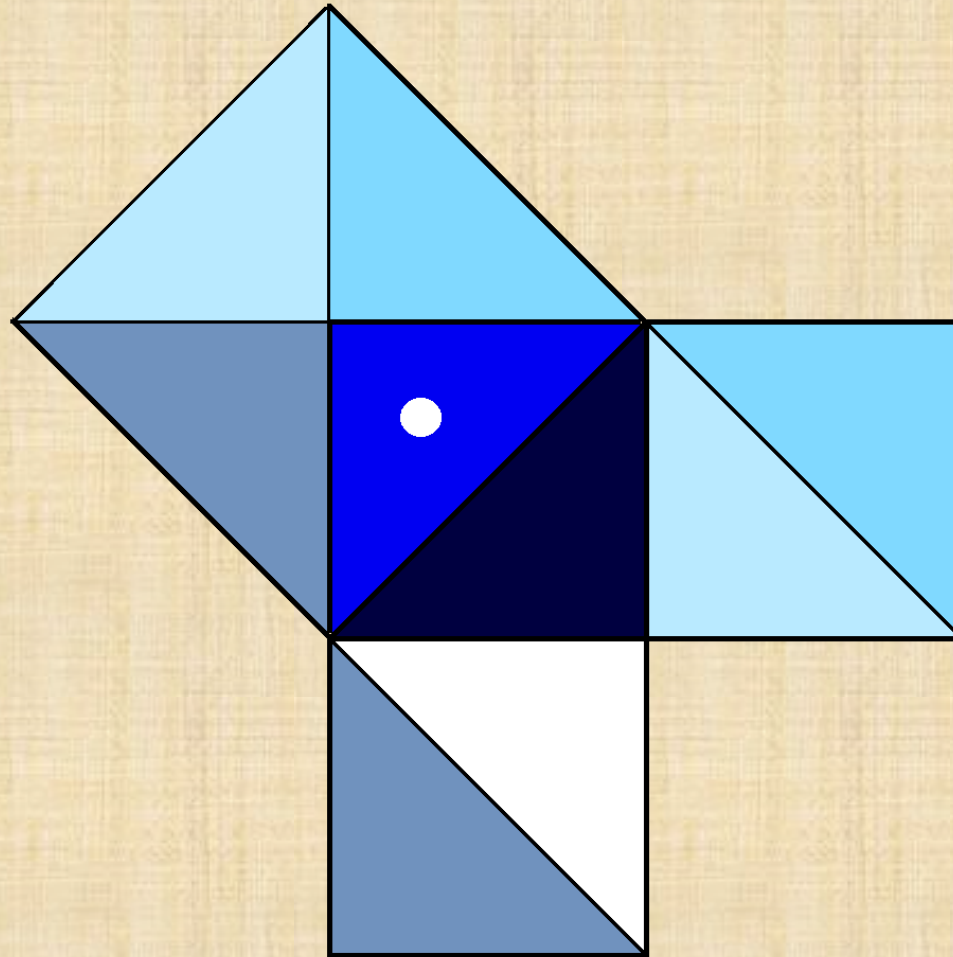
Geometric diagrams *are to* forms.

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# The Divided Line as a continuous ratio



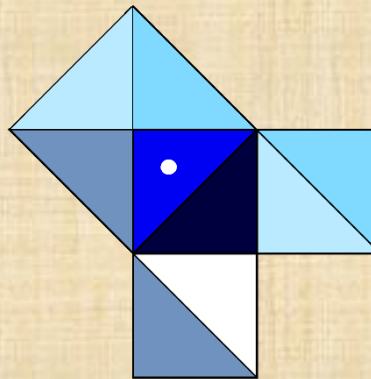
Geometric Diagrams are sensible things used to express the insensible their form



# The Sun and Sunlight Analogy

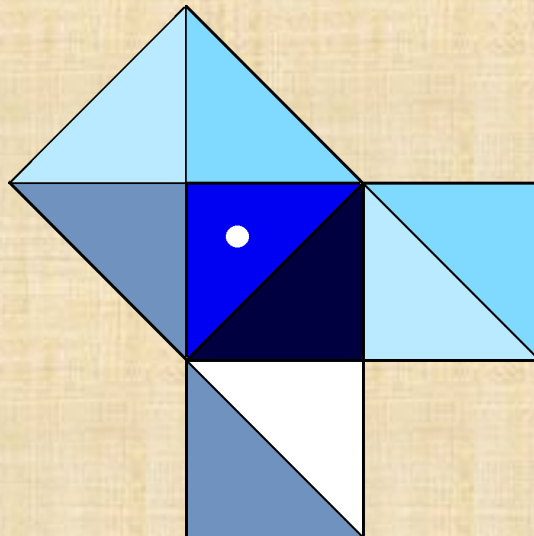
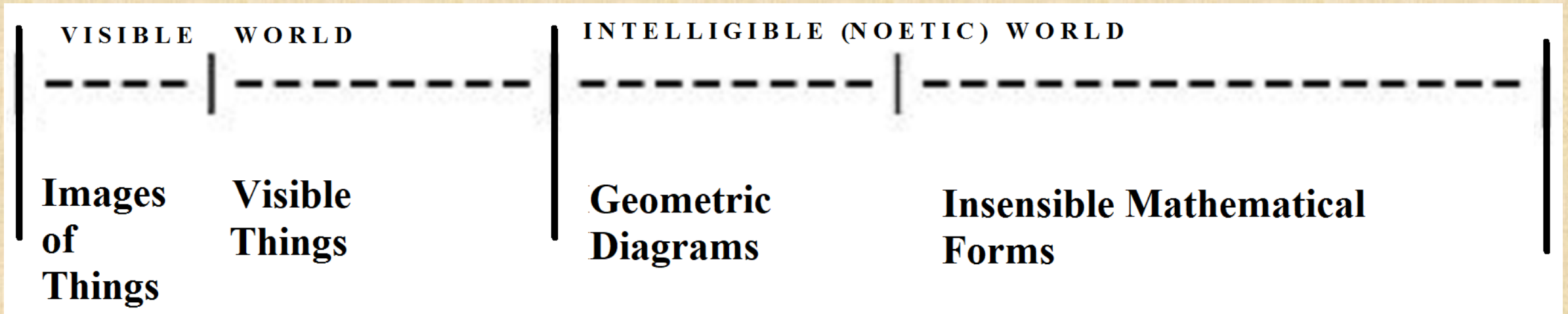
*Just as reflections of visible things are to visible things,*

*So geometric diagrams are to invisible forms.*

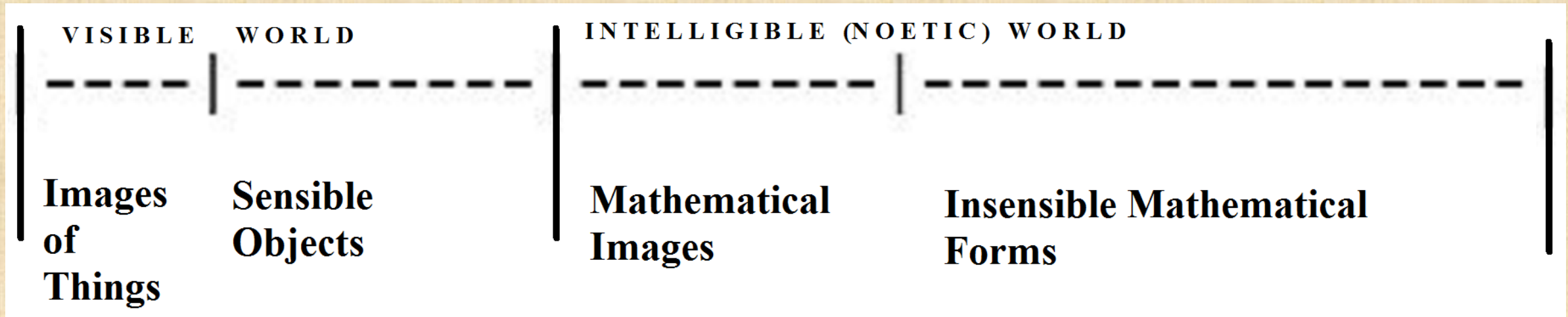


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# The Divided Line

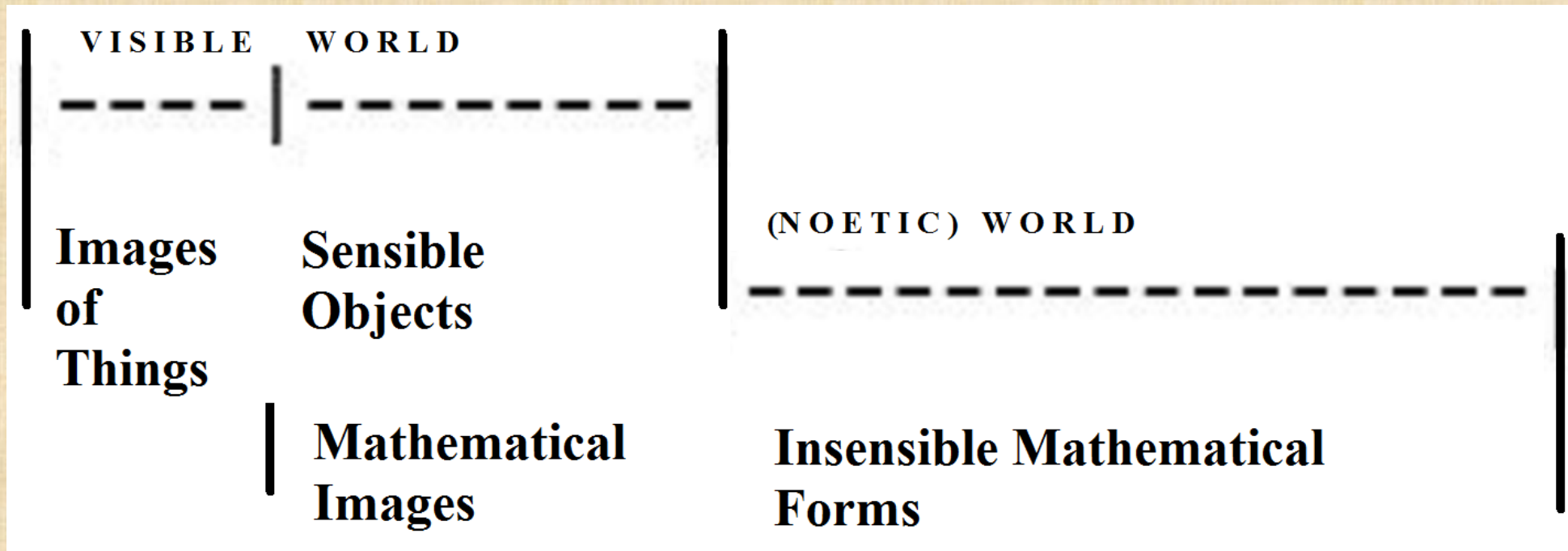


# The Divided Line for all the senses

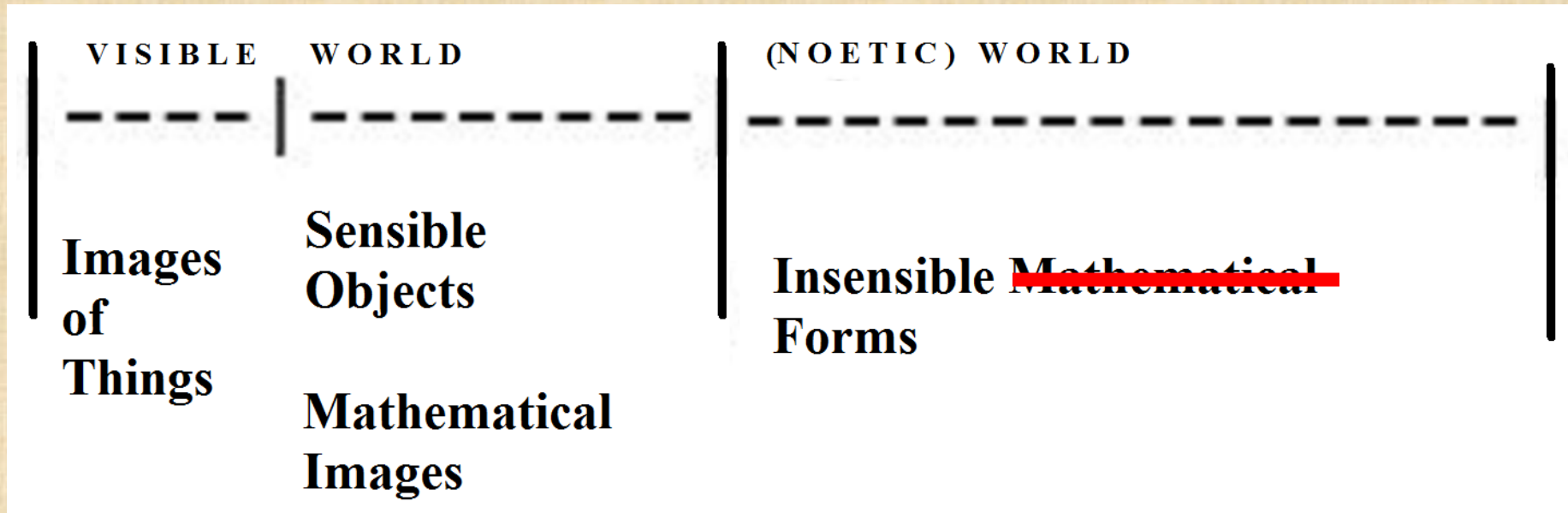




# The Divided Line as a continuous ratio



# Divided Line reduced to a 3-term proportion



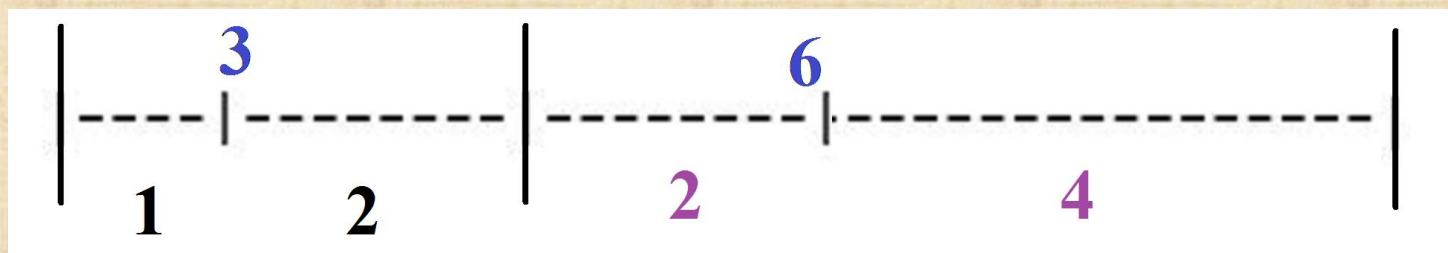
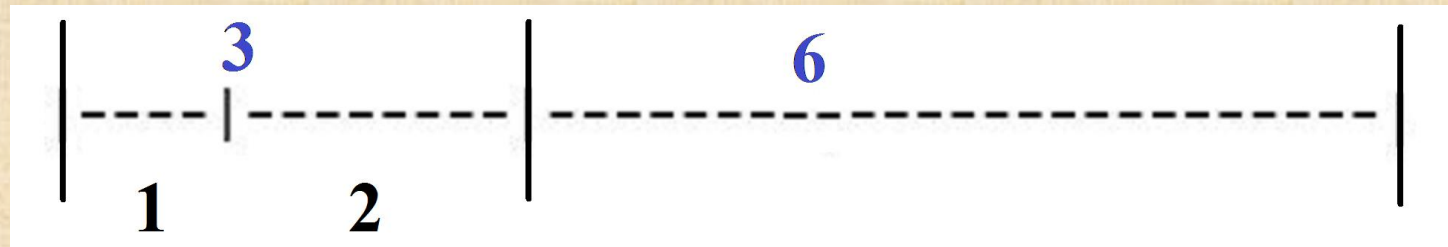
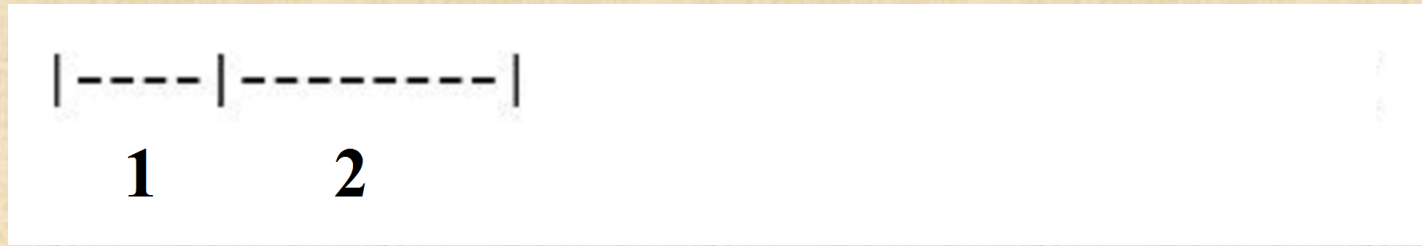
*Just as images are to visible things so visible things are to forms.*

Like a “geometric ratio” e.g., the double:

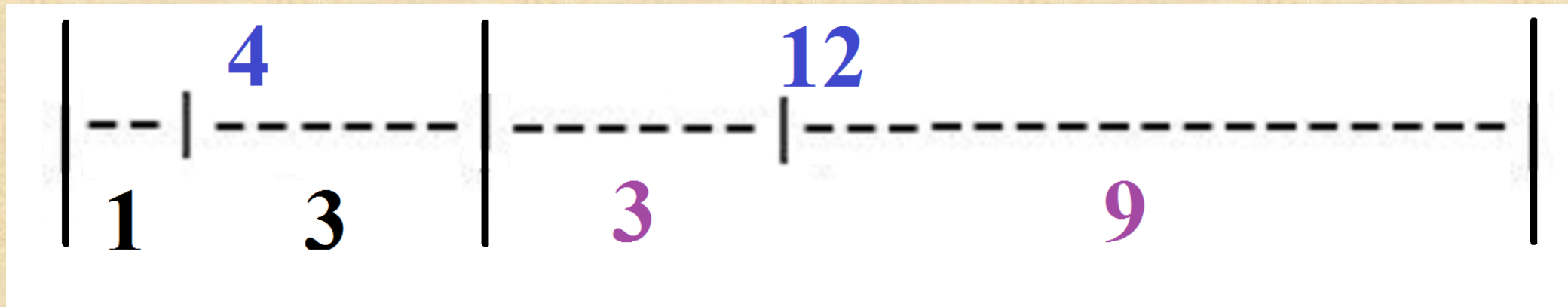
*Just as 1 is to 2 so 2 is to 4...*

*Just as 3 is to 6 so 6 is to 12*

# The Divided Line in the double ratio

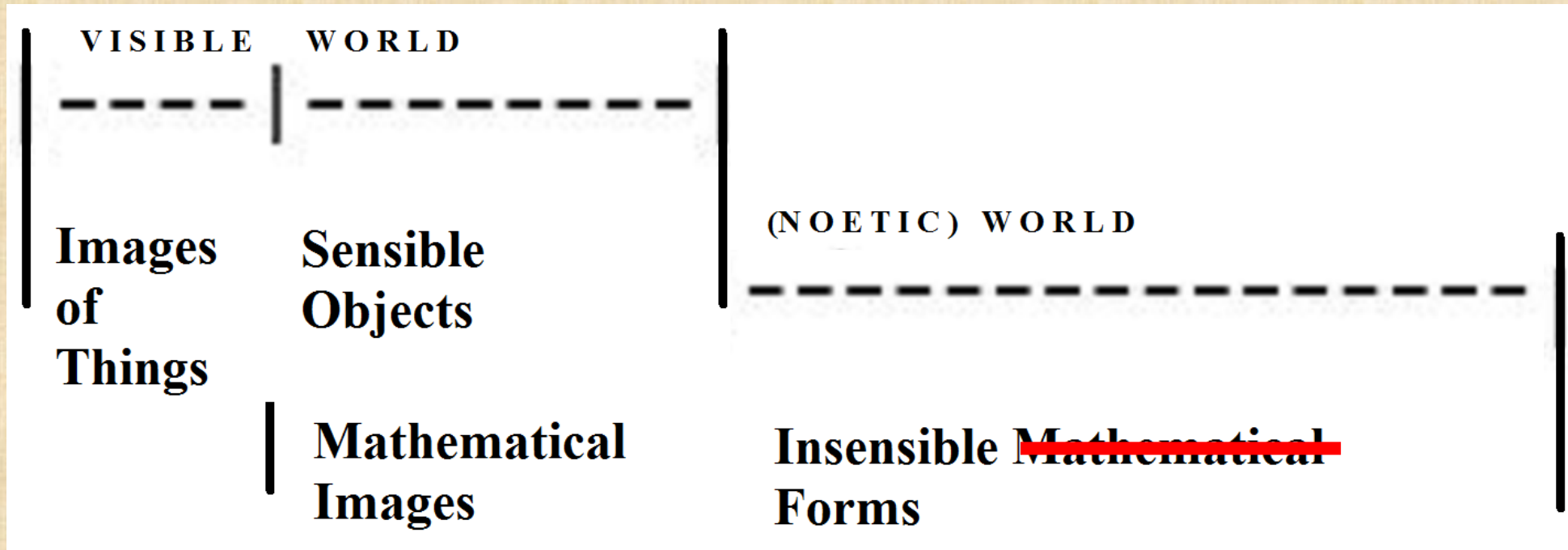


# The Divided Line in the *triple* ratio

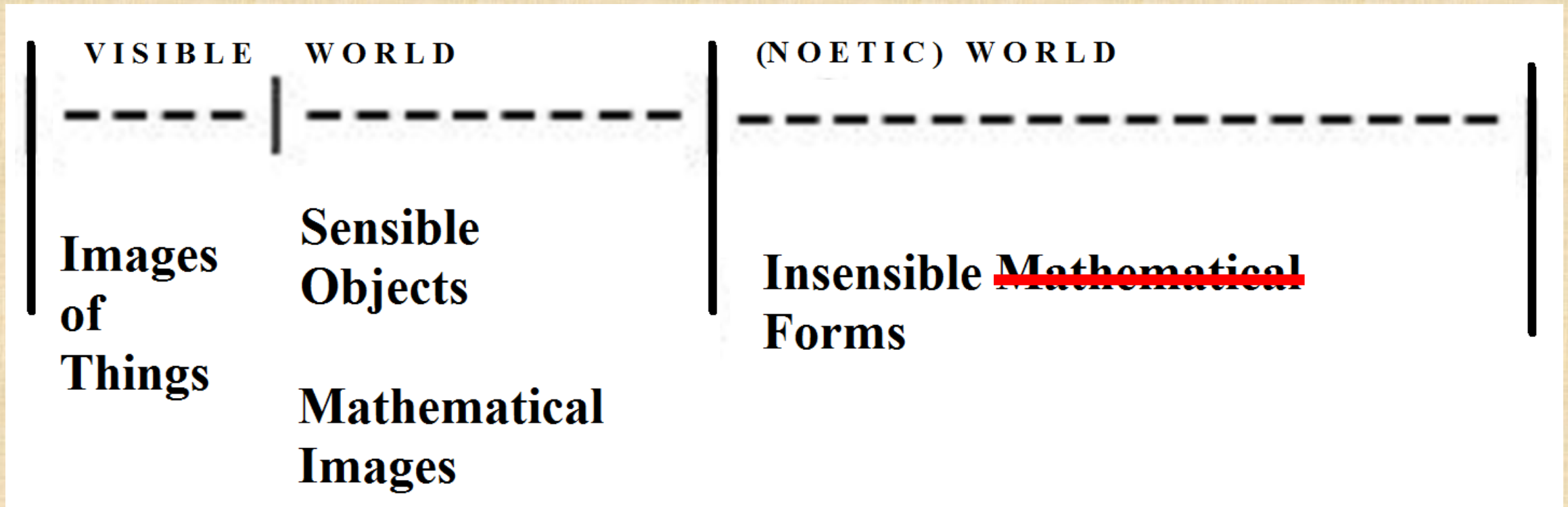


*No matter where the first cut is made, the middle terms (here 3 & 3) must always be the same.*

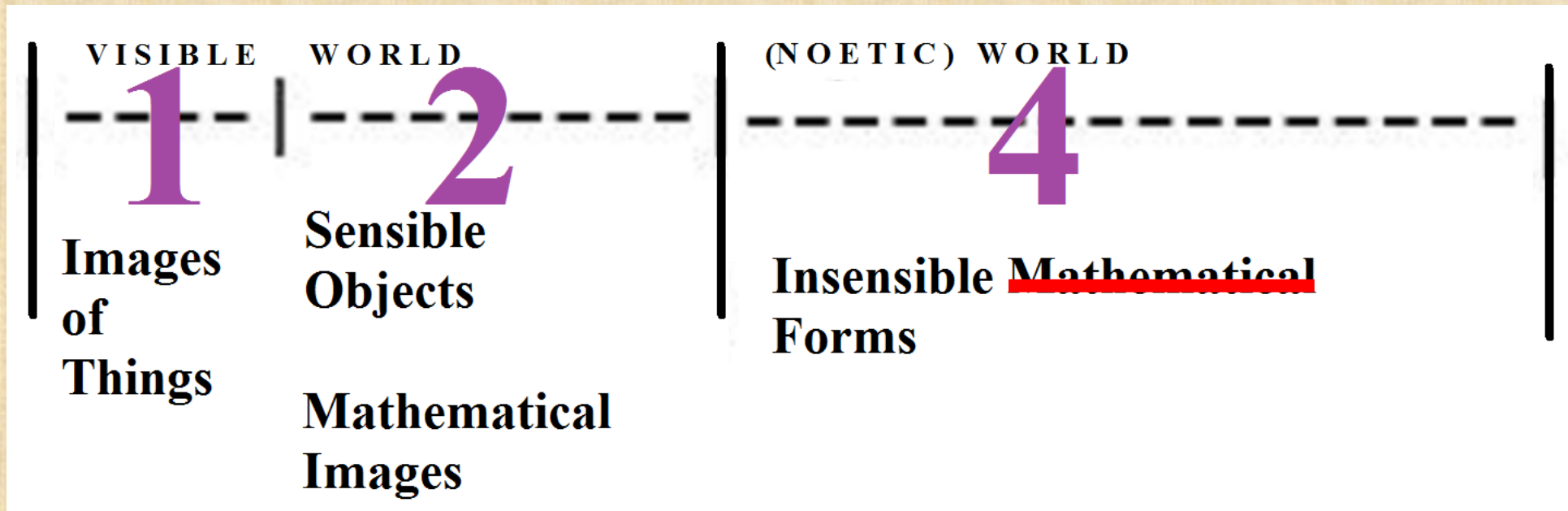
# The Divided Line as a continuous ratio



# Divided Line reduced to a 3-term proportion



# The Divided Line as 3-term proportion (e.g., double)





Ratio = *logos*

Proportion = *ana-logia*


# Counting Syllables

## Homeric Hexameter


  
 Over the sea, past Crete, on the Syrian shore to the southward,

  
 Dwells in the well-tilled lowland a dark-haired Aethiopian people,


  
 Skilful with needle and loom, and the arts of the dyer and carver,

  
 Skilful, but feeble of heart; for they know not the lords of Olympus,

  
 Lovers of men; neither broad-browed Zeus, nor Pallas Athene,

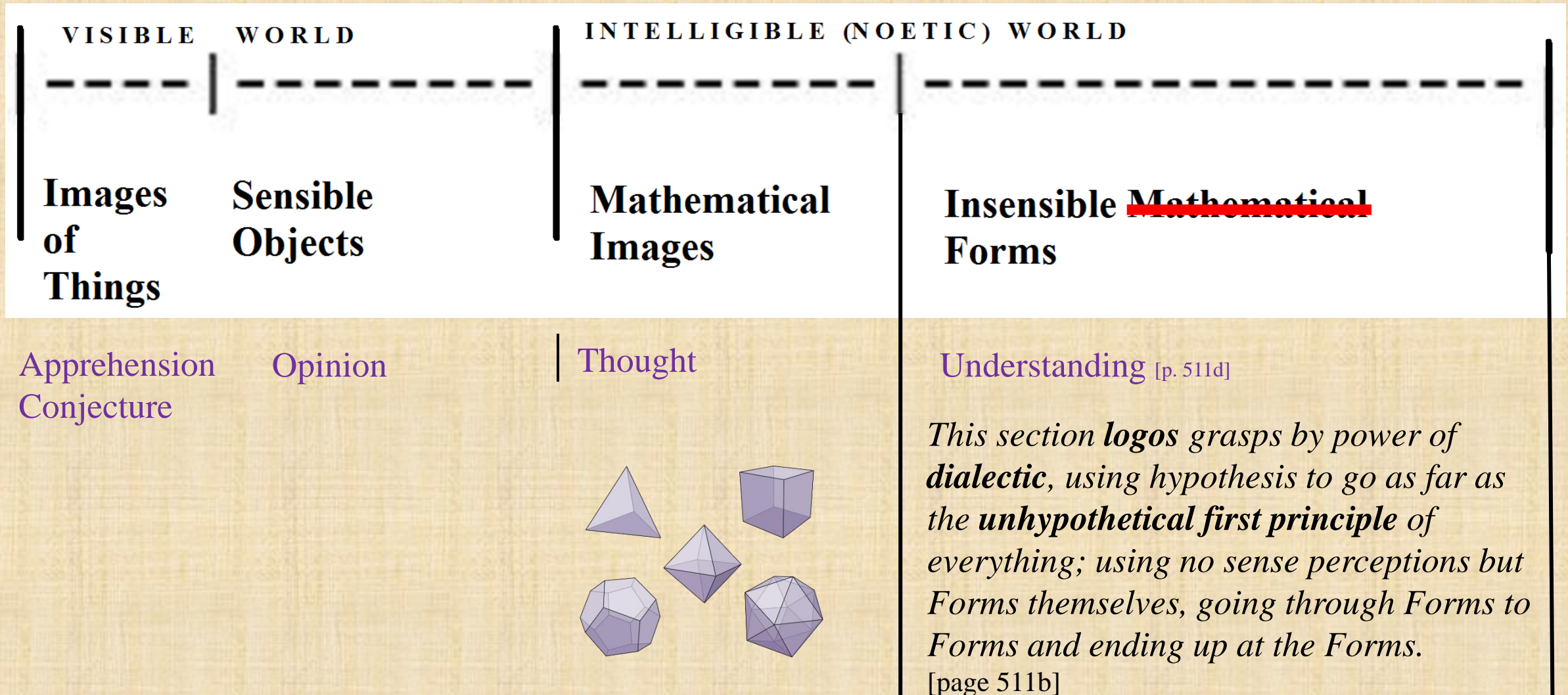
  
 Teacher of wisdom to heroes, bestower of might in the battle;

  
 Share not the cunning of Hermes, nor list to the songs of Apollo,

  
 Fearing the stars of the sky, and the roll of the blue salt water.



# Hierarchy of Reality and the corresponding Hierarchy of Knowledge



Goal of the education program is to...

*...to turn around the mind's eye towards the formal source  
(not towards the manifestations)*

**περι-αγω** *peri-agō*

518d 'lead about': περι-αγωγης *peri-agoges*

521c 'bringing of a soul around'

ψυχης περιαγωση *peri-agouē*

**μετα-στρεφω** *meta-strephō*

526e 'turn towards' μετα-στρεφεςθαι

532b μετα-στροθη

