

METAPHYSICS IS ESSENTIALLY A RECONCILIATION OF PLATO'S THEORY OF FORMS THAT ARISTOTLE ACQUIRED AT THE ACADEMY IN ATHENS, WITH THE VIEW OF THE WORLD GIVEN BY COMMON SENSE AND THE OBSERVATIONS OF THE NATURAL SCIENCES. ACCORDING TO PLATO, THE REAL NATURE OF THINGS IS ETERNAL AND UNCHANGEABLE. HOWEVER, THE WORLD WE OBSERVE AROUND US IS CONSTANTLY AND PERPETUALLY CHANGING. ARISTOTLE'S GENIUS WAS TO reconcile these two apparently contradictory views of the world. The result is a SYNTHESIS OF THE NATURALISM OF EMPIRICAL SCIENCE, AND THE MYSTICISM OF PLATO, THAT INFORMED THE WESTERN INTELLECTUAL TRADITION FOR MORE THAN TWO THOUSAND YEARS. AT THE HEART OF THE BOOK LIE THREE QUESTIONS. WHAT IS EXISTENCE, AND WHAT SORTS OF THINGS EXIST IN THE WORLD? HOW CAN THINGS CONTINUE TO EXIST, AND YET UNDERGO THE CHANGE WE SEE ABOUT US IN THE NATURAL WORLD? HOW CAN THIS WORLD BE UNDERSTOOD? (INTRODUCTION ADAPTED FROM WIKIPEDIA.

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