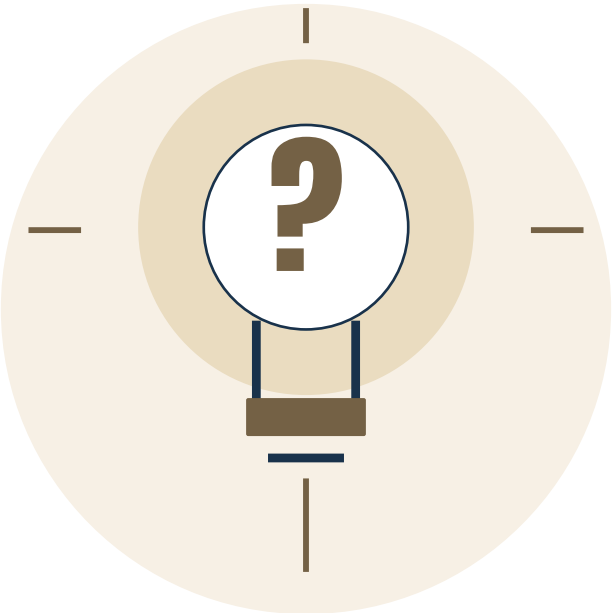
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Plato: The Examined Life

READING PLATO



Ask better questions about what you know, what you value and the life you are practising.

ILLUSTRATED IDEAS · ORDINARY SITUATIONS · QUESTIONS TO KEEP

ONE IDEA FOR AN ORDINARY DAY

Begin where certainty becomes difficult



Knowledge · Its limit · Further inquiry

Socrates's account of the oracle leads him to question people reputed to be wise. His relative advantage is not knowing everything, but recognising limits that others may overlook. The distinction matters when confidence becomes a substitute for reasons. You can know a great deal in one domain while being uncertain in another. Examining a limit need not discredit the knowledge you do possess. It can clarify where advice, evidence or further inquiry is needed.

A DISTINCTION TO KEEP

Expertise has a domain.

READ ALONG

Apology 20c–23b

TAKE THIS INTO YOUR DAY

What do I know, and where am I borrowing certainty?

Bring it into your day.

AN ORDINARY SITUATION

You understand the technical side of a project but are less certain about its effects on users. Instead of letting technical fluency settle both questions, you seek evidence from the people affected.

ADAPT

Your circumstances matter.

TRY IT TODAY

Name one area where your confidence extends beyond the reasons you can currently give.

A question to carry

What do I know, and where am I borrowing certainty?

NOTICE	Describe the particular situation before judging it.
CHOOSE	What is one proportionate next action?
RETURN	What would tell you whether the change helped?