

Plato's Chair

CONCEPT

Plato sought truth, and for him truth meant giving a precise and consistent description of things in the world. His project immediately encountered problems, as even large, solid object like mountains appear quite small from many perspectives. After examining how things change depending on our situation, he decided the senses give lie and that we can only trust our intellect. He concluded that we don't know things from our perceptions. Instead we take our untrustworthy perceptions and compare them to ideas, the pure products of our intellect, in order to know the things they represent. In Plato's universe even mundane objects like chairs have a shining correlate in the heavenly world of mind.

FADE IN:

INTERIOR: SUBWAY TUNNEL

SUBJECT stands on the edge of the platform. He is a man, dressed non-descriptly in black jeans and black T-shirt. A train rushes by. He stares directly into the side of the train, which casts a flickering light on him. From his POV we see only the shadows of people in the train windows. After a moment he shuts his eyes. He sees a glowing light in his mind's eye. He turns and walks away, pushing through the turnstile. When he arrives at the bottom of the stairway, he stands and gazes, unblinking, into the hot pure sunlight above the grimy stairs.

EXTERIOR: STREET BY SUBWAY ENTRANCE

Subject emerges from tunnel. He looks around and blinks in unfamiliar light. He sights something not evident to the camera - a shopping district - and begins walking towards it.

EXTERIOR: STREET BY SUBWAY ENTRANCE

Subject walks quickly down a sidewalk. He is in a shopping district full of little stores and window-shoppers. He walks briskly past everything, quickly scanning the windows for something. He's not paying attention, and he's somewhat awkward, as if unused to moving about freely. He crosses the street against a light and nearly gets hit by a car.

EXTERIOR: STREET BY SUBWAY ENTRANCE

Subject sees a furniture stores and snaps to a halt. He stares

intently inside, quickly sizing the array of objects in the relatively dark interior. Couches, tables and ... chairs. With military precision he finds the door, reaches for the handle, grabs it, and pushes his way in.

INTERIOR: FURNITURE STORE

Subject walks in through the front door. He catches the eye of the salesperson, an attractive woman to whom he pays no heed. Subject moves toward a chair. First one, then another, he seeks them out, stares transfixed, then moves on. He's not like an ordinary shopper. It's more like he's studying them, intently and without self-consciousness that his behavior is not quite ordinary.

SALESPERSON

Can I help you?

SUBJECT

(almost confrontational)
I am looking for THE CHAIR.

SALESPERSON

What kind of chair are you looking for?

SUBJECT

I, I ... am looking for THE CHAIR.

SALESPERSON

Well, what do you want to do with it?

SUBJECT

I ... am looking.

SALESPERSON

Okay, you just want to look?
(Sweeps arm around.) Let me know if I can help you.

SUBJECT

Help me?

SALESPERSON

Are you okay? It's hot outside. Do you want some water?

SUBJECT

I am looking for THE CHAIR.

SALESPERSON

Can you tell me what kind?

SUBJECT

The ... the ARCHETYPE.

SALESPERSON

You're in luck! We have the new Archetype line in stock. They're still the back, but I can bring one up if you tell the colors you're thinking of.