

INTIMATIONS ODE

The notes
by
Wordsworth
on the
composition
and...

3-26-1802: *MY HEART LEAPS UP*

(PROSE PREFACE ON THE
WEB SITE-
EXPLAINS WHAT HE
INTENDS)

3-27-1802: *ODE: STANZAS 1-4*

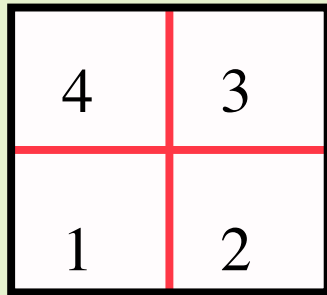
BREAK FROM COMPOSITION: 5-3 TO 7-4 1802 DURING
WHICH HE WRITES OF AN EXPERIENCE IN
RESOLUTION & INDEPENDENCE (AKA *LEECH GATHERER*)
THAT ALLOWS HIM TO CONTINUE.

**THIS EXPERIENCE REMOVES THE WRITER'S BLOCK
AND ALLOWS HIM TO FINISH THE *ODE*: 1804**

Ideas in the Preface of Wds.

- I. Abyss from idealism into reality---link
- II. **Metaphor in Bible** for prior states of existence
--Genesis--expulsion and attempt to get back
- III. **PLATO: The mind thinks in binaries--opposites**
- IV. **Death and life...if not in a cycle of opposites, then death would lead to nothing..so death gives life.**
(Ode to the West Wind --Shelley)
 - A. how can we know the answer to X if we have not experienced it here...unless we knew it from some prior state of existence?
 - B. This is the idea of innate knowledge.
 - C. Example...we see **X** which reminds us of **Y** that happened years ago...
- V. **The Forms and the notion of x and y being equal...where did we get idea of EQUALITY?**

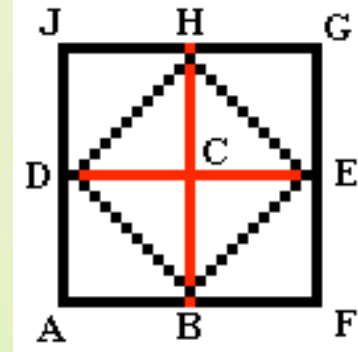
...from Meno: on innate knowledge:
the Socrates-Slave Dialogue:



-Socrates notes that square 1 has an area of 4 feet to which he adds three more squares (2-3-4) for a total of 4 squares

-He asks the slave how many times the size of the first square is the whole?

-The slave says 4 times the size.



No, says Socrates:

-He cuts a diagonal and makes a square BEHD

-He notes that each of the four squares have been cut in half

-So, if the area of each square is cut in half--that would = 2 feet X 4 = an area of 8 feet for BEHD

-What therefore must be concluded....?



Socrates' conclusion...

SOCRATES: This knowledge will not come from teaching but from questioning.
He will recover it for himself.

MENO: Yes.

SOCRATES: And the spontaneous recovery of knowledge that is in him is recollection, isn't it?

MENO: Yes.

SOCRATES: Either then he has at some time acquired the knowledge which he now has, or he has always possessed it. If he always possessed it, he must always have known; if on the other hand he acquired it at some previous time, it cannot have been in this life, unless somebody has taught him geometry. He will behave in the same way with all geometrical knowledge, and every other subject. Has anyone taught him all these? You ought to know, especially as he has been brought up in your household.

MENO: Yes, I know that no one ever taught him.

SOCRATES: And has he these opinions, or hasn't he?

MENO: It seems we can't deny it.

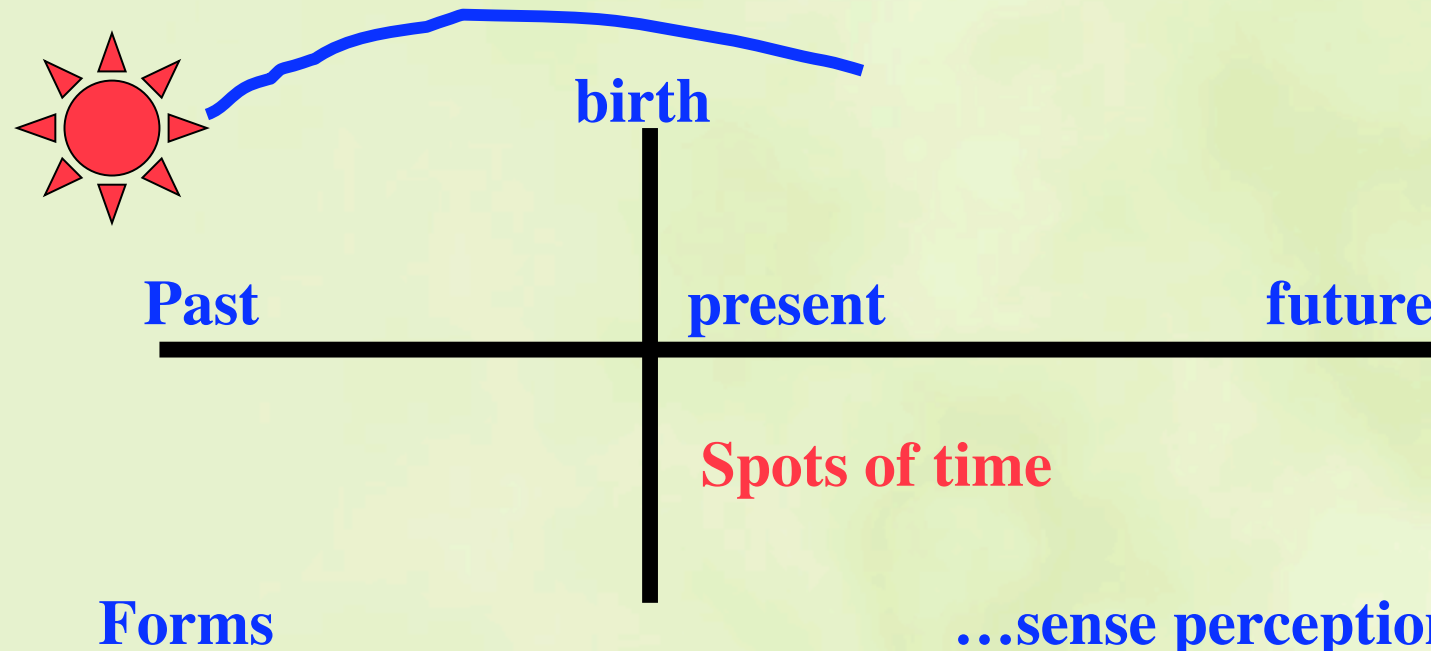
SOCRATES: Then if he did not acquire them in this life, isn't it immediately clear that he possessed and had learned them during some other period?

MENO: It seems so.

SOCRATES: When he was not in human shape?

MENO: Yes.

The meaning of stanza 5 and Plato...



Agree...pre existence of the soul with forms metaphorically

Disagree...**Plato**...the soul totally forgets / **Wordsworth:**
The soul gradually forgets

The task of poetry is to help the soul recollect its prior existence with the forms....**Problem**...how does this work in the poem?