



## SOCRATIC FRUSTRATION

By Jeff Dunne

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# SOCRATIC FRUSTRATION

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## CHARACTERS

PLATO	The ancient, Greek philosopher, disciple of Socrates
MIKONOS	A student of Plato
DYLAN	A modern era college student who has somehow stepped into ancient Greece

## SETTING

A room in ancient Greece.

*(It is a chamber in ancient Greece. Plato is sitting with one of his students, just beginning a discussion on the nature of learning.)*

PLATO

What I would like to discuss with you today is the approach that my mentor would use with Xenophon and myself when we were under his tutelage – what I have come to call The Socratic Method.

MIKONOS

A way of thinking?

PLATO

In a sense, but foremost a method of teaching. Rather than simply providing an answer to a query, Socrates would have a student explore it themselves by asking carefully considered questions.

MIKONOS

But if the student didn't know about the topic...

PLATO

Socrates believed that through guided exploration, the student would build that knowledge. The questions did not merely direct the student's mind, but provided information as well.

MIKONOS

I see.

PLATO

And by introducing the knowledge as a question, the student would find it less threatening to their current worldview. In time, his understanding would evolve, as new facts demanded a new, more encompassing perspective.

*(There is a knock, and Dylan walks in.)*

DYLAN

Professor uh... *(looks at a card in his hand)* Play-Dough?

PLATO

Pla-to *(emphasizing the t-sound)*.

DYLAN

Uh, right. *(Almost mocking...)* Pla-to.

And you are...? PLATO

Dyl-an. DYLAN

Dill Ann? PLATO

Yeah. Dylan. As in... Dylan? DYLAN

An unusual name. PLATO

Yeah. I think my parents were gonna call me Luke, but then my cousin was named Luke, and— DYLAN

I see. Is there something I can do for you, Dylan? PLATO

Says here (*indicating card*) that you're my prof for Intro to Philosophy. DYLAN

*I am?* PLATO

Yeah. (*Becoming aware of Mikonos.*) Hey, dude. DYLAN

Dude? MIKONOS

(*Mikonos thinks it is a question, but Dylan just thinks he is replying.*)

Are you in the class too? That's cool. DYLAN

Cool? MIKONOS

DYLAN

What?

PLATO

I'm sorry, but I only accept students that I have chosen—

DYLAN

That's total bull! It says right here (*indicating his schedule*) that I'm in this class. Dude, I need this to graduate. I know I'm a few minutes late, but come on. Don't get all cracked out.

MIKONOS

Perhaps Dylan could help with exploring the Socratic Method we were discussing.

*(Plato thinks about this for a moment, then nods.)*

PLATO

Very well. Come in, Dylan. Have a seat.

DYLAN

*(Very glad to be getting his way...)*

Alright...

PLATO

Now, Dylan, today we are going to explore the nature of good and evil.

DYLAN

Sure. Whatever.

PLATO

Can you explain the difference?

DYLAN

What difference?

PLATO

The difference between good and evil.

DYLAN

Sorry, dude. Did you just cover that, cuz I kinda phased out there for a minute.

PLATO

I didn't (*awkwardly, imitating*) cover it. I'm asking *you* to explain it.