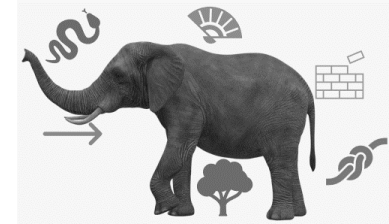


What do we mean by truth?

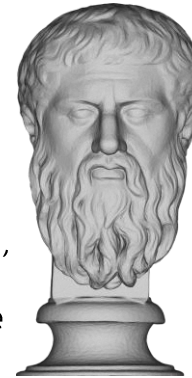
- To make **decisions** about if we **know**, **believe** or have an **opinion** on something, we might use **evidence** and reasoning.
- **Empirical evidence** is based on observation and data. Scientists look for empirical evidence.
- **Theoretical evidence** is based on experience or opinion but is not proved (yet). Philosophers may need to use theoretical evidence.
- Many worldviews make claims about their idea of truth. It is possible for different people to experience truth in different ways, it depends on their perspective or greater knowledge.

The story of **The Blind Men and the Elephant** is often used to explain the idea of **truth** in religion or belief in Hindu Dharma and other worldviews. We are all limited by our own experience and may not see the whole picture.



Key Vocabulary

- **analyse**: break down an idea
- **argument**: a reason given to persuade others
- **belief**: something a person thinks is true
- **doubt**: a feeling of uncertainty
- **empirical** (evidence): based in experimenting, observation and data
- **knowledge**: an awareness of something as true based on experience, education or evidence
- **opinion**: a view formed based on experience without sure knowledge
- **philosophy**: study of knowledge and thought (love of wisdom)
- **prophet**: a person chosen by God to pass on God's messages to ordinary people
- **reality**: the state of things as they exist rather than as an idea
- **reasonable**: a fair in sensible judgement
- **reliable**: something that can be trusted
- **theoretical** (evidence): based on experience and opinion but is not proved (yet)
- **truth**: real and based on facts



Famous Philosopher – Plato (438–360 BC)

- Greek philosopher who thought about truth and existence.
- Said **our senses can be tricked**, so might not always be reliable in showing us the truth.
- Said humans find it hard to imagine something that we have not seen and experienced.
- Plato tried to help people understand why being a philosopher and looking for answers to big questions is important.

Plato's cave

In this story, Plato imagines the escaped prisoner is like a philosopher. A philosopher works hard to understand the world as it really is and tries to explain their findings to others, but people find their ideas hard to understand. Sometimes people get angry and attack the philosopher because they don't understand.

