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Date:

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## The Greek World View: Aristotle and the Greek Balance

From: Richard Tarnas, *The Passion of the Western Mind*, Ballantine, 1991. pp.55-62

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1. What is the 'crux of the difference' between Platonic and Aristotelian thought?
2. Briefly explain Aristotle's doctrine of 'categories,' and what makes 'substance' a category significantly different from the rest.
3. How does Aristotle use the doctrine of Categories to demonstrate the error he perceived in Plato's doctrine of the Forms? How did they differ with respect to the ontology of particulars and universals?
4. What was the 'characteristic science' of Plato and Aristotle, and how did this influence each philosopher's worldview?
5. Explain what the terms 'matter' and 'form' meant for Aristotle.

6. Explain Aristotle's distinction between potentiality and actuality.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
7. How do Plato and Aristotle differ with respect to their understanding of the role of sense perception in acquiring knowledge of reality?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
8. For Aristotle, what role did 'nous' or 'mind' (active intellect) play in acquiring knowledge of reality?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
9. For Plato, what was the only 'part' of person that could be immortal? How does Aristotle differ from Plato on this issue?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
10. What do Plato and Aristotle have in common, or to what extent are their philosophies reconcilable?