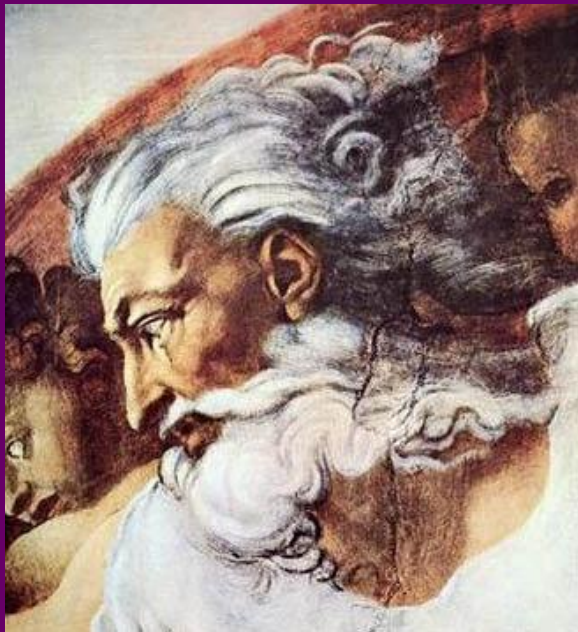




PHIL 101

Winter 2007



Self, World,

& God

The Concept of Knowledge

- **Abstract nouns**
- **“To know” as a verb**
- **J knows P**
 - Knowledge "how": I know how to use PowerPoint
 - Knowledge "by acquaintance": I know President Fatemi
 - "Propositional" knowledge: I know that P
- **Standard analysis of (propositional) knowledge**

Knowledge and Belief

- I believe that P
- Reasonable and unreasonable beliefs
- Knowledge is not simply belief
- Necessary conditions
 - Being male is a necessary condition of being someone's brother
 - If J is someone's brother, J is male
 - J is someone's brother, only if J is male
- J knows (that) P only if:
 - (i) J believes (that) P
- “ J knows P , but just can't believe it.”

Knowledge and Truth

- Knowledge as true belief
- The “astrology” example
- What is truth?
 - Philosophical analyses
 - Correspondence – but how to discover?
 - Coherence – totally indirect
 - Semantic – safe, but unsatisfying
 - Indirect route to something direct?
 - Johnson’s “not not-false” analysis
- J knows (that) P only if:
 - (i) J believes (that) P
 - (ii) P is true

Knowledge and Justification

- The “astrology” example, again
- J knows (that) P only if:
 - (i) J believes (that) P
 - (ii) P is true
 - (iii) J is justified in believing (that) P
- The standard analysis of knowledge
- What is justification?
 - Certain and indubitable beliefs?
 - Knowledge and the possibility of error
 - Justification as exceedingly good evidence

A Working Definition

- J knows (that) P only if:
 - (i) J believes (that) P
 - (ii) P is true
 - (iii) J has exceedingly good evidence (that) P
- Necessary and sufficient for knowledge?
- The Gettier counter-example
- My Guido story
- What does this show?
- A theory of good evidence will suffice