

Socrates would ask, what do you mean by that word, what is the significance of this belief? And through that type of questioning it became clear how ridiculous and unreasonable the person's belief and position was. Well, the republic at that time, had a little problem. They needed somebody to blame, so Socrates was blamed. He was guilty of impiety. He caused the youth and others to stray from belief in the gods. He embarrassed people. He made them question authority. How? By asking them questions. So when you need a scapegoat you find the one with the high profile. And they told Socrates, if you'll promise not to do this anymore, we won't kill you. Socrates said, I'm not going to change my ways, and before I do that I'll die a thousand deaths, but he only had to die one because they made him drink the hemlock. Unlike the cat, when his heart stopped beating, it was over. But he had a devoted follower named Plato. Plato preserved some of what he said Socrates did and said. In writing his republic he had a portion in there about the cave. He postulated the existence of people who were in a position, in a cave, where their necks are chained and they cannot move to see the back or either side, all they can do is look out the entrance. There was a raised area which you might see as a stage. On this stage there were puppets. There was a light outside the cave which caused shadows to be cast into the cave. Because the people sat at a lower level, than this raised area, they couldn't see on the outside. So they saw shadows and they saw silhouettes of puppets. The shadow was not the reality, the puppet was not the reality. The shadow was cast by the puppet and the puppet was merely an image or a representation of the human beings. So these people got an entirely distorted concept of reality. Plato said if you took the chains off these people, and let them go outside, first of all they'd experience pain in their eyes because the light is so bright and they weren't accustomed to it. Because their whole life had been spent dealing with illusions, they feel that the shadow, cast by a mere image of the reality, was the reality. When they saw the human beings on which both of these illusions were based, they said that the human beings, the actual reality, was not real, and because it was so difficult to deal with this new light that caused them pain, some would retreat to the safety and security of the cave and would rather deal with illusion than reality because it was easier and what they were accustomed to dealing with. So Senator Beutler has tried to take the Legislature from the cave of illusion and