

The Way of Truth

- 2"Come now, listen, and convey my story. I shall tell you what paths of inquiry alone there are for thinking:

NOTE: This text is the same as your Parmenides handout.

The Way of Truth



– **#1.** The one: that *it is* and *it is impossible for it not to be*.

This is the path of Persuasion, for it accompanies Objective Truth.

The Way of Truth

- **#2.** The other: that *it is not* and *it necessarily must not be*.

That (path #2), I point out to you, is a path wholly unthinkable, for neither could you know what-is-not (for that is impossible), nor could you point it out.

The Way of Truth

- 6"Whatever can be spoken or thought of necessarily *is*, since it is possible for it to be, but it is not possible for nothing to be. I urge you to consider this last point, for I restrain you firstly from that path of inquiry (#2), and secondly from:

The Way of Truth

- **#3.** The one on which mortals, knowing nothing, wander, two-headed, for helplessness in their breasts guides their wandering minds and they are carried, deaf and blind alike, dazed, uncritical tribes, for whom being and not-being are thought the same and yet not the same, and the path of all runs in opposite directions.

The Way of Truth

- 7For never shall this be proved: that things that are not *are*. But do restrain your thought from this path of inquiry, and do not let habit, born from much experience, compel you along this path, to guide your sightless eye and ringing ear and tongue. But judge by reason the highly contentious disproof that I have spoken.
- 8a" One path only is left for us to speak of: that *it is*.

The Way of Truth

- 8a" One path only is left for us to speak of: that *it is*.

NOTE: *End of the Parmenides excerpt from the handout.*

The Way of Truth

Preliminary questions :

1. What does Parmenides mean by “It is” or “It is not,” what is the “it”? What is the **subject** of these assertions?
2. What is the sense of “is” here?
3. What does Parmenides mean when he says that something “is there to be spoken of” or “is there to be thought of” [fr. 6].

The Way of Truth

Preliminary questions :

Q: When Parmenides says “It is” or “It is not,” what is the “it”?

Answer: “being,” “what can be known,” “whatever exists,” etc.

Or simply, any object of inquiry.

The Way of Truth

Preliminary questions :

Q: What is the sense of “is” here?

Answer: Choice - the **existential** and **predicative** sense of is.

- Most believe it is the **existential** “is” or the IS of EXISTENCE.

The Way of Truth

Preliminary questions :

Q: What is the sense of “is” here?

Problem: predicative sense is **incomplete**.

“It is _____.” Huh????

There’s no assertion here while the existential “is” *is* complete:

“It is” = “it exists.”

Parmenides

Q: What does Parmenides mean when he says that something “is there to be spoken of” or “is there to be thought of” [fr. 6].

Answer: What’s available or possible to be talked about or thought about.

Whatever can be a possible object of reference or a possible object of thought – IS.