

# Critique of the Control Dichotomy as a Useful Strategy

Post by "Cassius" of February 22, 2026 at 8:23 AM

[Matteng](#) here is another example of that problem of granting false presumptions, this from Plato's Phaedo:

Quote

**[100b]** "There is nothing new," he said, "in what I am about to tell you; but only what I have been always and everywhere repeating in the previous discussion and on other occasions: I want to show you the nature of that cause which has occupied my thoughts, and I shall have to go back to those familiar words which are in the mouth of everyone, and first of all assume that there is an absolute beauty and goodness and greatness, and the like; grant me this, and I hope to be able to show you the nature of the cause, and to prove **[100c]** the immortality of the *psūkhē*."

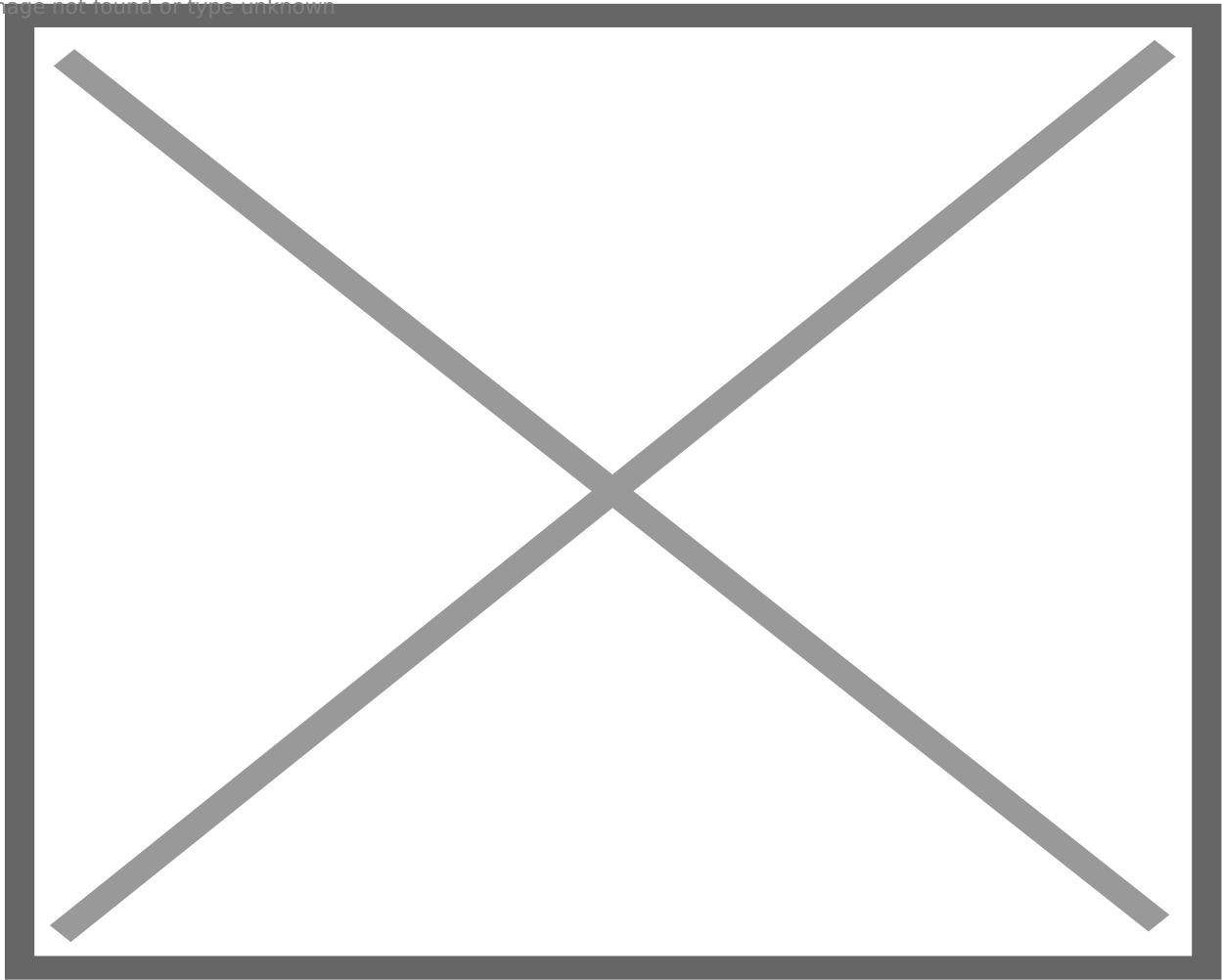
Cebes said, "You may proceed at once with the proof, as I readily grant you this."

Hell, no, Socrates!

I do NOT grant you that there is an "absolute" beauty and goodness and greatness!

Read onward from there, and you see what a trap you are drawn into by accepting these initial premises:

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[Plato, Phaedo, trans. Jowett - The Center for Hellenic Studies](#)

Translated by Benjamin Jowett Adapted by Gregory Nagy, Miriam Carlisle, and Soo-Young Kim  
Persons of the Dialogue Phaedo, who is the narrator of the dialogue...  
chs.harvard.edu

And you have to smile - or want to strangle Plato - at the audacity of statements such as this:

Quote

**Echecrates**

Yes, Phaedo; and I don't wonder at their assenting. Anyone who has the least sense will acknowledge the wonderful clearness of Socrates' reasoning.

<https://www.epicureanfriends.com/thread/4890-critique-of-the-control-dichotomy-as-a-useful-strategy/?postID=38835#post38835>