

Plato:

Plato was born at Athens in Greece. He was one of the famous Western philosophers. He was one of the students of "Socrates" and he was teacher of famous philosopher "Aristotle" of history. He was the founder of The Academy, first known university in the Western world. He wrote philosophical dialogues, that till today are reasons of his popularity like:

Socrates: "Poetry feeds and waters the passions instead of drying them up.

She lets them rule when they ought to be controlled,

and thus she makes us worse and not better."

Glaucon:

"I cannot deny what you say."

[Reference: The Republic (X)]

He explored the big questions about knowledge, reality, ethics, justices and the soul like Republic somehow answers these questions briefly.

Plato's Attack on Poetry With Reference of the Republic (X):

In his famous book, The Republic Plato is revealing the truth of the physical world, the art (all literature) and the reality. The theory of imitation (copy of copies) explains his broad point of view about his surroundings. As we know that writers wrote what that experience and sometimes they wrote just as a result of their own imagination and thoughts.

In this book, he applies his theory in a unique way. He put his teacher Socrates as a main character of his book. Socrates don't take poetry as a positive influencer in society. His ideas, thoughts and believes are questioned by Glaucon.

He then says that what you actually are observing is not a reality. The actual reality is beyond our eyes and mind. He is explaining in a logical way that you should consider that we are in a place where in front of us is a cave, behind us fire and if any one of us move out of cave he will be

unable to explain the hardships that he faced during struggle of reaching out, because he can't come inside again.

The theory of imitation is applied in unique way that in a world what is in front of our eyes is not reality like the poets depicts the society in a strange image by using different allegories, wide illogical terms and imagination. If someone in this world knows the reality, it is very difficult for him to give awareness to others that they are not living in reality. It is simply like the concept that if someone died his body is mortal but soul is immortal. The soul remains forever. But, this concept is understood by died one in that time after which he is quite unable to aware people from reality.

The Plato marks the soul as immortal. He is a critique for poetry because he believes that poetry takes the people and society quite away from this real concept of human's life i.e. death.

In Republic he attacks poetry in this way that poetry takes people and society in an imaginary world. They indulge their selves in imaginary world in such a way that they take that world as a reality. He is explaining that the physical world is copy of real world created by a great creator. The literature (poetry) makes people unable to think about actually what the reality is.

During whole chapter of Republic, the Socrates tries to prove the Glaucon the reality and immortality of soul. At the end, Glaucon accepts his point of view. Plato criticizes the poetry. He actually encourages the idea that reality lie beyond our eyes. Poetry mislead the society and results in social destruction. The physical world is created by a great creator. The literature that involves poetry is whole copy of real copy. So a copy can never lead people towards a right direction. That's why poetry mislead people.

In simple words, he takes poetry as an imitation, poetry appeals to emotions not the logics and any reason, the poetry distorts the truths and logical study, it is quite harmful for an ideal and a moral ethical society.