

Table of Contents

Abbreviations of Titles of Aristotle’s Works 11

Introduction 13

i. »Essential Knowledge« from Epistemology to Psychology 14

ii. Possibility of Juxtaposing the *Posterior Analytics* with *De Anima* 17

iii. Further Methodological Remarks 22

iv. Overview of What Follows 24

1 The *Meno* Paradox and the Challenge to Essential Knowledge 33

1.1 The Origin of the Dilemma and Plato’s Solution 36

1.2 Aristotle’s Solution: A General Sketch 47

1.3 The Paradox in the Context of the *Analytics* 59

1.4 »Back Again as Well«: The Structure of Inquiry 73

1.5 Hypothesis about the »Dynamics of Knowledge« 88

2 Implications of the Role of Insight in Aristotelian Science 93

2.1 How Much of an Empiricist Was Aristotle? 96

2.2 The Intertwining of Cause, Essence, and Existence 107

2.3 Goat-stags, Unicorns, and the Nautilus 124

a) At What Stage of Inquiry Is the »Proper Object of Thought« Achieved? 126

b) What Does the Grasp of the Essence Entail? 134

c) Conclusions 142

Table of Contents

2.4 Essential Knowledge and Per Se Predication	145
2.5 The Importance of the Leap to Essential Knowledge	157
3 The Gap between Perceptual Experience and Insight	163
3.1 The Actualization of Perception and Its Limits	166
a) What Kind of Alteration is Perception?	168
b) How Does Aristotelian Perception Work?	172
c) What Is the Scope of Aristotle's Perceptual Realism?	180
3.2 The Nature of Complex Perceptual Objects	185
3.3 What Does φαντασία Add to Perception?	196
3.4 The Peculiarities of νοῦς and Its Objects	205
3.5 The Distinction between φαντασία and νοῦς	220
4 The Metaphysical Foundation of Essential Knowledge	237
4.1 The Concept of Form Applied to Essential Knowledge	239
4.2 Achieving νοῦς: ἐπίδοσις as Key Cognitive Actualization	248
4.3 Understanding νοῦς as a Form »Taking Place« in the Soul	262
4.4 What Does It Mean to Be Affected by Intelligible Objects?	276
4.5 The Priority of Actuality as Foundational Principle	286
Conclusion	301
i. Summary of the Argument	301
ii. The Foundation of Theory of Knowledge on Metaphysics	304
iii. Limits of the Present Inquiry and Further Developments	307
iv. Perspectives on Potential Theoretical Applications	310