

OPEN PEER REVIEW

Exploration of the Concept of "Whatness" in the Physics and Substantial Metaphysics of Aristotle

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1. Round 1

1.1. Reviewer 1

Reviewer:

The statement "Substance in the metaphysical sense" needs further elaboration. A clearer definition of "substance" in this context could enhance the reader's understanding of its role in metaphysics.

The claim that "form and matter cannot be understood as things" requires further clarification. It would be beneficial to explain why these concepts are treated differently from other entities in metaphysical discussions.

The transition to specific examples (cats, dogs, humans) could be made smoother. Consider adding a phrase that connects the general idea of "essence" to these specific instances more coherently.

The phrase "exist from eternity to eternity" should be explained in terms of its implications for Aristotle's concept of the Unmoved Mover. How does this relate to the idea of eternal substances in his metaphysical framework?

When stating that "not only physics but also mathematics cannot address being as being," it would be helpful to explain why mathematics, which deals with abstract entities, does not engage with this concept. A more thorough analysis of the relationship between mathematics and metaphysics would be beneficial.

The assertion that "first philosophy deals with immaterial entities" needs clarification. How does Aristotle categorize these entities, and what significance do they hold in his overall metaphysical system?

The statement that "the concept of substance is the foundation of all reality" should be supported by further elaboration on how substance interacts with other fundamental concepts in Aristotle's metaphysics, such as essence and existence.

The discussion regarding the Greek term *ousia* and its translation issues requires more depth. A comparative analysis of its implications in various philosophical contexts could enhance the reader's understanding.

The distinction between "ontological" and "epistemological" categories requires further elaboration. Consider discussing how these distinctions affect our understanding of substance and its implications in both metaphysics and epistemology.

Authors revised the manuscript and uploaded the document.

1.2. Reviewer 2

Reviewer:

The assertion that all sciences pursue "the causes and principles" lacks specificity. Consider providing examples of specific sciences and how they relate to the pursuit of causes within Aristotle's framework.

The phrase "only some of them understand through sensory perception" could be further expanded. How does Aristotle distinguish between different types of understanding? Providing examples would strengthen this point.

The assertion that "the goal of philosophy differs from other sciences" could be better supported by examples from Aristotle's works. Including specific philosophical inquiries that differ from scientific methods would clarify this distinction.

The discussion about the "absolute being" and "being as being" might benefit from elaboration. What implications does this distinction have for understanding substance in metaphysics?

The claim that "finding an accurate answer to the question of 'whatness' is challenging" could benefit from a discussion of existing literature that addresses this complexity. Including references to relevant studies would strengthen this argument.

The assertion that "Aristotle uses a secondary meaning for substance" should be supported with direct quotations from his *Metaphysics* to substantiate this interpretation. Specific examples would enhance the credibility of your argument.

Authors revised the manuscript and uploaded the document.

2. Revised

Editor's decision: Accepted.

Editor in Chief's decision: Accepted.