Notes on *Sophist*

Setting: day after *Theaetetus*—resumption of discussion. Theodorus has brought a stranger from Elea.

Perhaps he is a god of refutation.

No, but divine, because a philosopher.

Philosophers visit our cities in disguise, beholding from above the life of those below, sometimes in the guise of sophist, statesman, or even madman.

Socrates: How do they use the words “sophist,” “statesman,” “philosopher,” in Elea?

Socrates mentions the conversation he had with Parmenides many years before.

Stranger (or Guest): As there, we shall use the method of questioning.

Start with sophist.

As illustration we shall define Angler (this is copied from A. E. Taylor's *Plato: the Man and His Work*:)

Arts

- of making
- of acquiring
  - of acquiring by consent
  - of capture
    - of open capture
    - of stealthy capture = hunting
      - of living things
        - of living things
          - of terrestrial animals
            - of birds
              - by nets
              - by striking
                - by night
                - by day
          - of animals that live in a fluid
            - of fishes
              - by nets
              - by striking
                - from above
                - from below = angling
Sophist #1:

(hunting)

of animals that live in a fluid

of terrestrial animals

of wild animals

by violence

by public persuasion

by private persuasion

by persuasion

receiving hire

receiving only maintenance (flatterer)

receiving money = sophist

receiving only maintenance (lover)

receiving hire

receiving money = sophist

by private persuasion

by public persuasion

by violence

by persuasion

receiving hire

receiving only maintenance (flatterer)

receiving money = sophist

receiving only maintenance (lover)

receiving hire

receiving money = sophist

by private persuasion

by public persuasion

by violence

by persuasion

receiving hire

receiving only maintenance (flatterer)

receiving money = sophist

receiving only maintenance (lover)

receiving hire

receiving money = sophist
Sophist #2

(acquiring)

by capture
by consent (exchange)

(giving)
(selling)

(retail)
(wholesale)

(of one's own productions)
(of others' productions)

(of food of body)
(of food of soul)

(of art of display)
(of knowledge)

(of knowledge of things other than virtue)
(of knowledge of virtue = sophist)
Sophist #3

Same as #2 with “retailer” and “wholesaler” reversed.

Sophist #4

Same as #2 with “own productions” and “others’ productions” reversed.
Sophist #5

(acquisition by capture)

competitive

pugnacious

by conquest of bodily strength

by contest of words

in public controversy

in disputation

without rules

with rules

wasting money

making money
Sophist #6 (of noble lineage)

- art of discerning
  - like from like
  - better from worse (purification)
    - purification of bodies
    - purification from vice (disease of soul)
      - teaching of handicraft arts
        - by admonition
    - purification of souls
      - purification from ignorance (deformity of soul)
        - by questioning = sophist of noble lineage
      - purification from ignorance of one's own ignorance (education)
He who has not been examined has not been purified of the greatest taint or educated.

Summary of six kinds of sophist.

This many-fold appearance must be false.

Let’s consider the controversialist aspect. In what field is he an expert in controversy?

All fields.

Is this possible? No.

Suppose someone professed to produce all things by a single skill?

He must be producing images.

Thus the sophist. He is producing word-images.

So sophist #7:

- **art of imitation**
  - **producing likenesses**
  - **producing semblances**

What is seeming? Or saying what is not true?

How can what only seems really be?

Parmenides said that you can’t say that things that are not really are.
We must put this statement to the torture.

(To be continued)