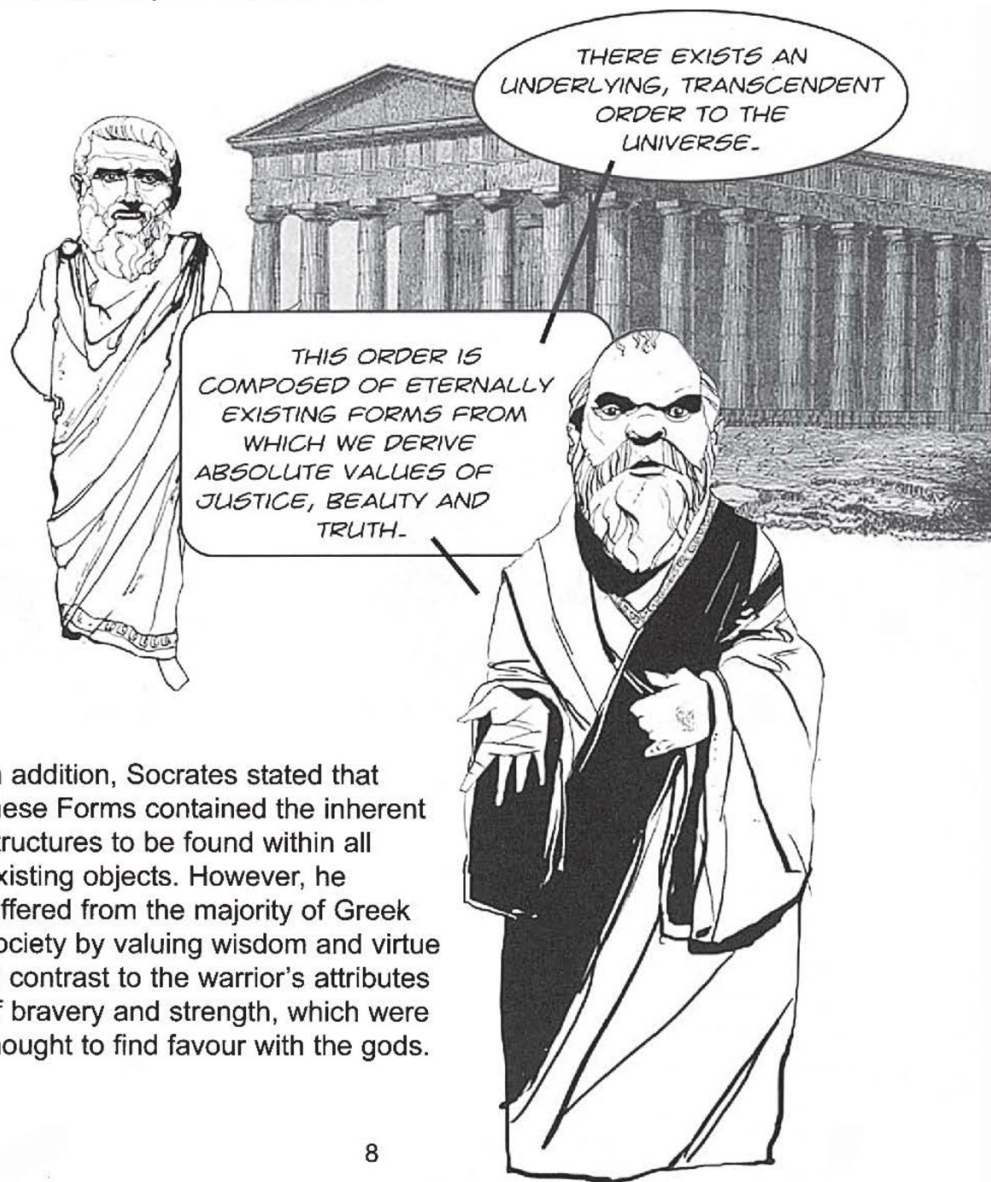


## Socrates and Plato

It is important to bear in mind that, in the classical period, truth was associated with religious and ethical ideas. Plato's philosophy was based on the teachings of his mentor, the itinerant philosopher **Socrates** (470–399 BC). In common with the rest of Greek society, Socrates held religious beliefs which were **metaphysical** in character. Metaphysics is a *dualistic* system – the gods exist in a higher transcendent realm and the world down below, inhabited by humans, is a pale imitation of it.



In addition, Socrates stated that these Forms contained the inherent structures to be found within all existing objects. However, he differed from the majority of Greek society by valuing wisdom and virtue in contrast to the warrior's attributes of bravery and strength, which were thought to find favour with the gods.