

## **REACTION #2**

In Socrates' Apology, or defense to his being indicted by Meletus, he states that Court is a place of punishment, not instruction. In today's courtrooms punishment is the order of the day for indigent defendants in nearly every case, as happens to Socrates. Socrates argues, much like many of the United States' indigent criminal defendants, that if only he could pay way his way out of the case for some drachma or minae, he would post the surety or pay the fee. However, no financial escape is offered, and no instruction is allowed to cure Socrates' so-called ills, and he is thus adjudicated guilty by the men of Athens and sentenced to suffer death.

I can extrapolate Socrates' venue to United States courtrooms today in that when "instruction" is called for by the Court in our modernity either probation or parole is imposed in place of punishment and retribution incidental to incarceration. I can also infer that given Socrates is essentially innocent of the indictment presented, no "guilty beyond a reasonable doubt" standard existed in Athens at the time of his judgment. Socrates faced not one so called "corrupted youth", who are ironically present or represented in the courtroom by relatives, where instead he ardently gives his defense without answering to a direct witness accuser. Socrates is convicted of being a corruptor of the youth by indirect witness, and heretical to the state and antithetical to the gods over the weight of his direct testimony. In an American courtroom where "guilty beyond a reasonable doubt" prevails it's typically impossible to be convicted by indirect witness without substantial circumstantial proof, and where he has not been found to have lied, his direct testimony should hold up.

As a threshold matter, Socrates himself is proof positive there is underlying merit to what seems to be the supporting fact of the indictment that he is the wisest or among the wisest in Athens, which is what I believe poisons the facts, stigmatizes Socrates, and results in his death sentence.

In light of Socrates' protestations of true innocence to the entirety of the indictment presented against him, a fair reading of his Apology results in his complete exoneration consistent with a burden of proof with which I am familiar (*guilty beyond a reasonable doubt*).