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Socrates was a very learned man, brimming with philosophies and ideas we still use today. When he says knowledge is good and ignorance is evil, he wants to assess the willing ignorance of the masses and to show what evil results from it. On the flip side, Socrates would agree that knowledge brings about just people and good ideas that help humanity. Although true to an extent, I respectfully disagree.

Knowledge has brought a lot of good to our world, but it has also brought a great amount of evil with it. A well educated person is not obliged to use his or her intellect for good, one would get just as much fame if something bad came of it. We could agree that new architectural living standards and state-of-the-art medicine are products of great knowledge, but that same knowledge has been put to inventing what some would call evil; guns, poisons, the nuclear bomb, etc.

Ignorance does not necessarily breed evil either, or at least not exclusively. Every part of the world has their share of petty crimes such as hold-ups and mugging, and this could be argued to be the result of ignorant minds. However, I am sorry to say crime does not stop there. It goes much larger than petty crimes; intricate bank robberies have been dramatized by Oceans 11, but only because it is based on occurrences that have actually happened. We have lawyers who would willingly defend a serial killer for a sack of cash, and corporate executives who swindle their businesses out of millions of dollars. These are all products of a learned, knowledgeable mind.

Even though I disagree with Socrates' quote, I am not happy with doing so. When Socrates said that knowledge is good and ignorance is evil, he was in a time that doesn't have the troubles our world has today. He did not have to deal with terrorist attacks or a faulty economy, which in itself probably creates corrupt intelligent minds. An intelligent mind in his time would most likely be able to do more good than the mind would in our time.

Knowledge has great potential to do good, but there is always a chance it can be used for evil as well. In our society there seems to be a lot to gain from inventing things that could be considered "evil". Socrates tried to show that ignorance is evil and knowledge is good, and it was probably true. But sadly, it has little relevance to the world we live in today.