Plato introduces a mysterious stranger in his later dialogues who introduces a new philosophical method involving collection and division. The new method signals to many interpreters a revision or even rejection of the famous theory of Forms developed in dialogues like the Phaedo and Republic. But no one has understood the Stranger’s method well enough even to say what he is collecting and dividing. There are fatal flaws to all current interpretations of the method, leaving Plato’s later metaphysics locked away behind a door. We propose an answer to the question, hoping to unlock the door.

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