

Philosophy

-philos(love)
-Sophia(wisdom)
-Love of wisdom

Nature of Philosophy

Always in the quest for an explanation

Key Interrogative words

-What
-Why
-How

Types of Search

merely asking

intense search for deeper meaning

Origin of Philosophy

Miletus, Greece the birthplace of philosophy in the west

Thales of Miletus first philosopher in the west

Thales asked "What is the ultimate stuff of the universe"

Answer he found: Water

Philosophical activity

widest generalizations Philosophers talk about the truth, the good, the just, the beautiful, and the existence of practically all things

fundamentals knowledge wont make sense without philosophical ideas like consciousness and existence

desire to integrate things into one coherent whole find the One in the many

Branches of Philosophy

Metaphysics about human reality like the origin and existence

Epistemology nature of the human knowledge and how to obtain it

Ethics moral questions and dilemmas

Aesthetics establish the criteria of beauty

Logic deals with correct reasoning

Need for philosophizing

Aristotle All men desire to know

Plato to quench his sense of wonder

Rene Descartes to doubt

Socrates the start of wisdom is docta ignorantia

Karl Jaspers because of experience

docta ignorantia

-limitation of human knowledge

Socrates

-died for the truth

-was accused of corrupting the citizens of Athens

Types of Thinking

Holistic Perspective conclusions are made without looking at all sides of the problem

Partial Point of View looking at all aspects of the situation and then making a conclusion

Reflection

requires a person to be willing to examine one's thoughts, feelings, and actions and to learn more about one's life experiences

Philosophical Reflection

- When a person conducts in a philosophical reflection, he is able to judge whether his actions or decisions are reasonable or not by thinking of deeper questions and reflecting on the situation.



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Steps in Philosophical Reflection

- Learning from past mistakes and not repeating them
- Evaluating the best options from the options
- Have a holistic point of view before making conclusion

Theories of Truth

- Correspondence Theory of Truth** concepts are true when they correspond to the reality of the world.
- Coherence Theory of Truth** ideas are inter-related system
- Pragmatic Theory of Truth** A pragmatist can consider something to be true without needing to confirm that it is universally true.

Tips in Evaluating Opinions

- Source** knowing the origin of the information
- Reliability** reputation and credibility of the person
- Purpose** reason for the opinion
- Assumption** once accepts as fact but no effort to prove it

Methods of Philosophizing

- Methodic Doubt** any claim that can be doubted is not believable
- Socratic Method** teacher-student, one ask question, one answers
- Dialectic** exchange of logical arguments
- Scientific** gaining conclusion from scientific experiments, methods etc
- Historical** based on trying to understand past human affairs

Fallacies

- Ad hominem** attacking the person not the argument
- Ad baculum** appeal by force
- Ad misericordiam** appeal by using pity and emotion
- Ad populum** bandwagon, acceptable because many are accepting it
- Ad Antiquitatem** acceptable because it has been true for a long time
- Petio Principii** begging the question
- Fallacy of Composition** combining words instead of taking them separately
- Fallacy of division** assuming that if its true for the whole is also true for each parts
- Ad verecundiam** appeal by shame
- Dicto Simpliciter** argument based on unqualified generalization

Concepts in Method of Philosophizing

- Facts** something that can be verified as true
- Opinion** subjective
- Beliefs** statements with conviction that are not easily explained by facts
- Explanation** statements that assume the claim to be true and provide reasons
- Conclusion** judgement based on facts
- Fallacies** arguments based on faulty reasoning
- Arguments** provides reasons to convince reader or listener for a claim to be true
- Bias** disproportionate weight in favor or against something. Can be both positive and negative.



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