

Philosophy

- a particular set of ideas about *knowledge, truth, the nature and meaning of life*
- how we choose to spend our lives contribute to the development of identity and self understanding
- the nature of self is a topic of interests and have their own views
- love for wisdom
- study of the fundamental nature of knowledge, reality, and existence
- theory that someone has about how to live or deal with a situation.

SELF

- union of elements, namely: body, thoughts, feelings or emotions.
- a person's particular nature or personality. qualities that makes a person unique

Philosophers and their Concept of Self

1. Socrates (470 BCE-399 BCE)

- a Greek philosopher and the main source of Western thought
- we know his life through the writings of his students, *Plato* and *Xenophon*
- Know Yourself "*An unexamined life is not worth living*"
- man must stand and live according to his nature
- man has to look at himself. To find what? By what means?
- a bad man is not virtuous through ignorance; the man who does not follow the good fails to do so because he does not recognize it
- the core Socratic ethics is the concept of virtue and knowledge
- concerned with the problem of the self
- succeeded made people think about who they are
- worst thing to happen is to live but die inside
- "every person is dualistic" man = body + soul
- individual = imperfect/permanent (body) + perfect & permanent (soul)
- believed the the "self" exists in two parts: *physical*, tangible aspects of us = *mortal* constantly changing
soul = *immortal* unchanging/unmodified
- physical realm*, our body and soul are attached
- ideal realm*, when we die our body stays in physical realm and our soul travels to the ideal realm, therefore making our soul immortal

2. Plato (428-7 BCE-348-7 BCE)

- "*The Ideal Self, the Perfect Self*"
- man was omniscient (having infinite awareness)
- 3 Components to the soul (can be validated by directly turning inward to one's own experience of the self)
- appetitive/mind soul - biological needs & base desires and comforts (foods, drinks, sleep)
- spirited soul - basic motions & emotions should be kept at bay
- rational soul- divine essence & reason & intellect to govern affairs
- supported *dualism* (a student of Socrates)

3. Aristotle (384 BCE-322 BCE)

- "**The soul is the essence of self**"
- self-realization is attained by fulfilling man's threefold nature:
- vegetative
- sentient
- rational

4. St. Augustine

- "**I am doubting, therefore I am**"



Philosophers and their Concept of Self (cont)

- love and justice as the foundation of Individual Self
- he agreed that man is bifurcated nature
- body
- soul
- goal of human to attain communion and bliss with the Devine
- created in the image and likeness of God

5. St. Thomas Aquinas

- adopted some ideas from Aristotle
- man is composed of two parts: matter and form
- matter "hyle" common stuff that makes up everything in the universe
- form "morphe" essence of a substance or thing
- "The things we love tell us who we are"**



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