

PHILOSOPHY

A philosophical discussion session, using questions.

What is philosophy?

Is wisdom the same as knowledge?

Is a philosopher necessarily a wise man?

A philosopher asks the question, seeks, but may never reach the answer.

(S)he is on a journey towards the answer.

Is asking the question more important than getting the answer? Why?

Philosophy started in wonder, especially wondering WHY.

Can anyone be a philosopher?

Children ask philosophical questions:

If Daddy had married someone else, would I still be me? (Identity)

Why can't we have yesterday again? (Concept of Time)

What is a child doing when he continues to drop things?

He discovers Gravity and practices Inductive Reasoning.

When did people start to think, to reason?

There are three main ways of thought: Religion, Science and Philosophy.

Are they totally separate?

Why did philosophy start?

What kind of problems was it supposed to solve?

Issues:

Is there an underlying unity in a changing world?

What can I be sure of?

Can we depend on our senses?

What is reality? (Plato)

Can I even be sure that I exist? (Descartes)

Can there be Free Will in a determined world?

What is Freedom? Freedom and Responsibility.

Are we 'condemned' to be Free? (Kierkegaard, Sartre)

Consolation of Philosophy. (Socrates, Epicurus, Boethius)

What can we do to change our own situation? Our immediate environment?

The world? (Pebble in the lake)

We can't change Fate, but we can change our attitude. (Stoics)

See our problems in context: don't waste time – our life – regretting what we can't have or do. Be positive about what we do have and can do.



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WHEN DID MAN BEGIN TO THINK?



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When and why did people start to think rationally?

Questions were asked about what Man did not understand.

The need for security in an unpredictable world.

Each society had its own questions – looked for its own answers.

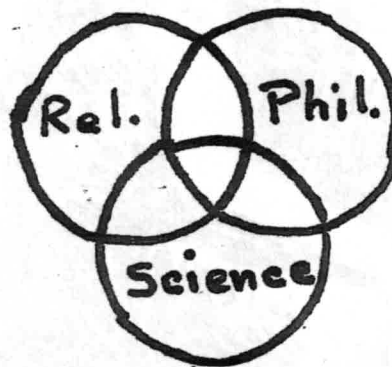
All had stories, explaining the world.

Three main branches of thought, which overlap:

Religion.

Philosophy.

Science.



What is Philosophy?

Greek: Philo = Love, Sophia = Wisdom.

Philosophical thinking started before writing, e.g. in Australia.

Between the 6th and 4th Centuries B.C. thought started to challenge established religious beliefs and myths in the Mediterranean, China and India.

