



ΟΙ ΔΡΟΜΟΙ ΤΗΣ ΓΝΩΣΗΣ



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MINISTRY OF EDUCATION & RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS, CULTURE & SPORTS
MANAGING AUTHORITY

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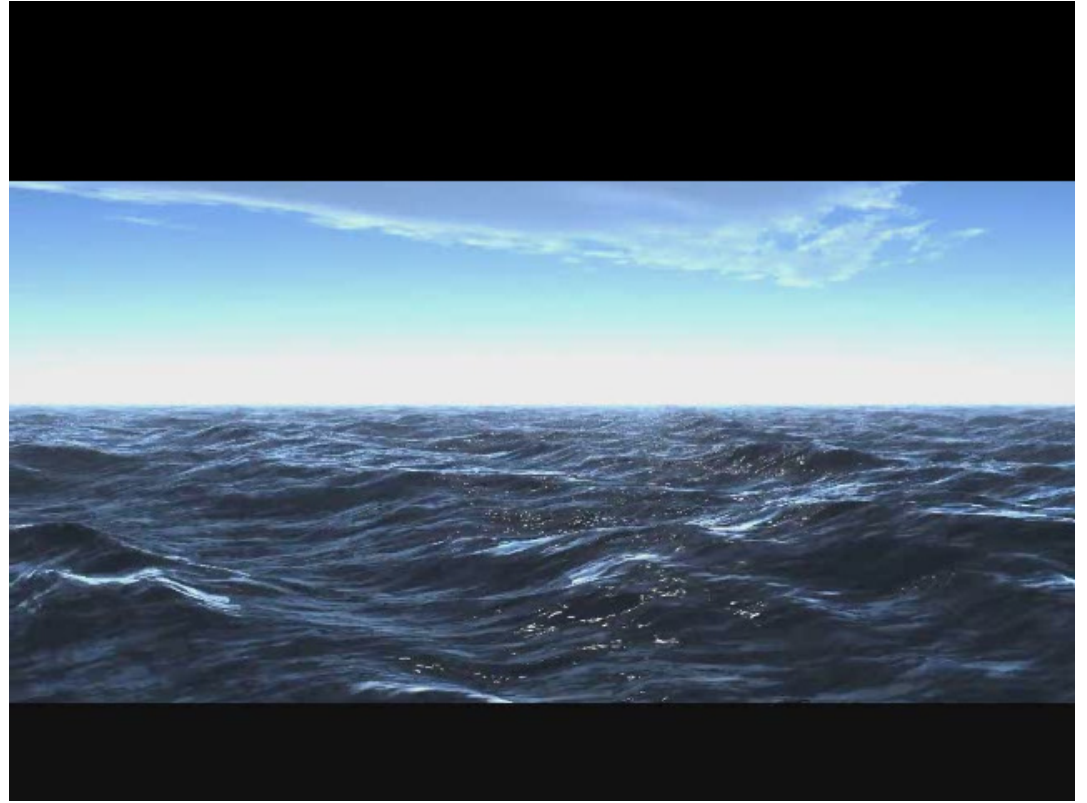
In the Paths of Greek Thought

Summer Schools for Greek children, children from European high Schools and from Schools in America, Australia and Asia

The project "Academy of Plato: Development of Knowledge and innovative ideas" is co-financed from National and European funds through the Operational Programme "Education and Lifelong Learning"

PRE-SOCRATIC PHILOSOPHERS

- Pre-Socratic philosophers distinguish between natural – supernatural.
- They consider natural elements and abstract concepts as the principle of things.



“Water, the principle of all things”

THALES



«The infinite (ἄπειρον) is the first principle of all things,
Everything is created by it and direct to it»

ANAXIMANDER



The principle of the Cosmos is the air.

“As our soul being air holds us together and controls us, so does air encloses the whole world”

ANAXIMENES



«Fire, the principle of everything, the ever-living fire
(αείζωον πύρ)»

Heraclitus



“Fire gives rise to the sea”.

Heraclitus



“Fire gives rise to the sea and then to the earth”

Heraclitus



“Earth, water, air and fire, they all combine and segregate creating the Cosmos”.

Empedocles



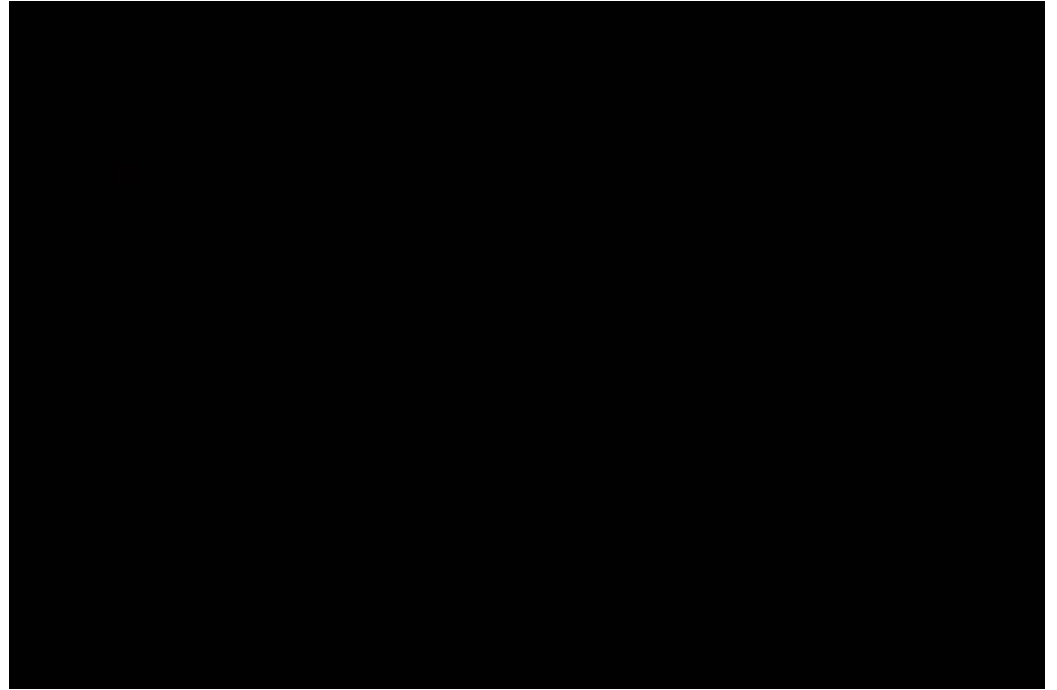
... Their eternal union and segregation is caused by two divine powers: LOVE (ΦΙΛΙΑ) and STRIFE (NEIKOYΣ)

Empedocles



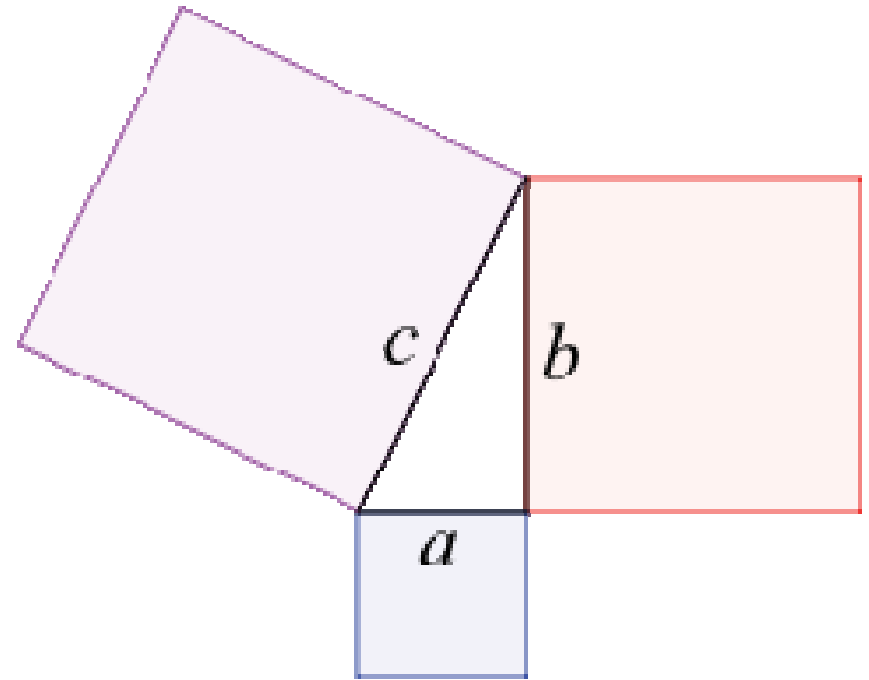
“NOUS (mind) orders all things, is the reason for the creation and birth of all things”

Anaxagoras



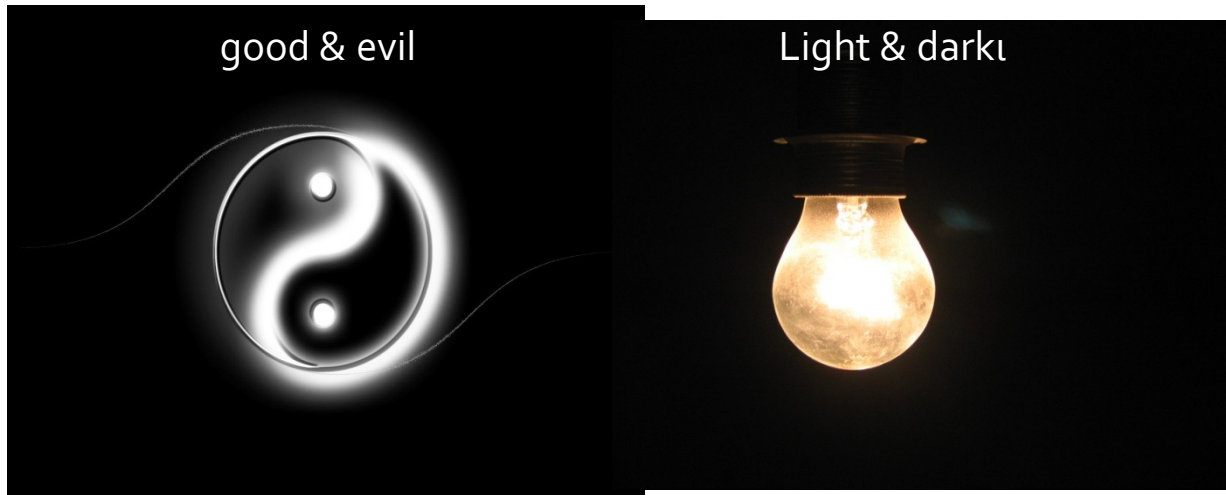
“The harmony of the Universe comes from numbers”

PYTHAGORAS



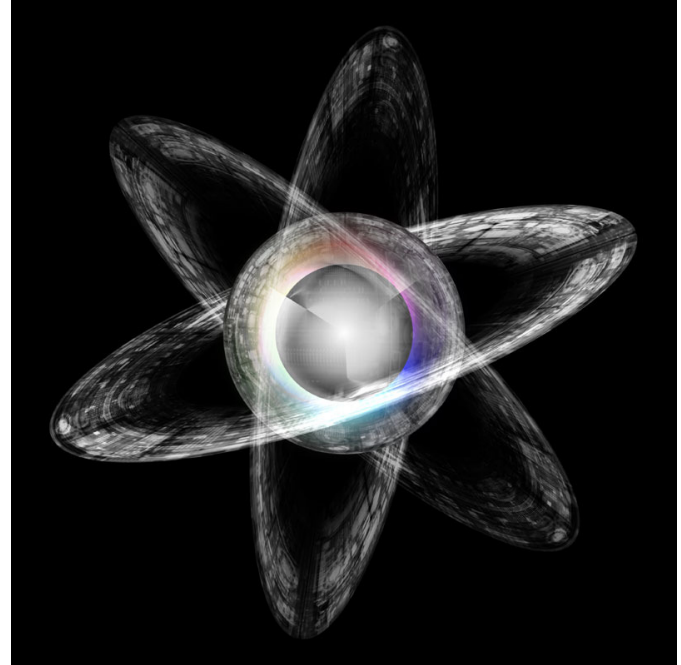
“The sum of the areas of the two squares on the legs (a and b) equals the area of the square on the hypotenuse (c)”

PYTHAGORAS



“Opposite forces of good and evil confront each other and rule the world”

PYTHAGORAS



“The first principle of the Universe are the atoms and empty space”. The atoms are unlimited in size and number and in constant move, generating all composite things. They cannot be devided...

DEMOCRITUS

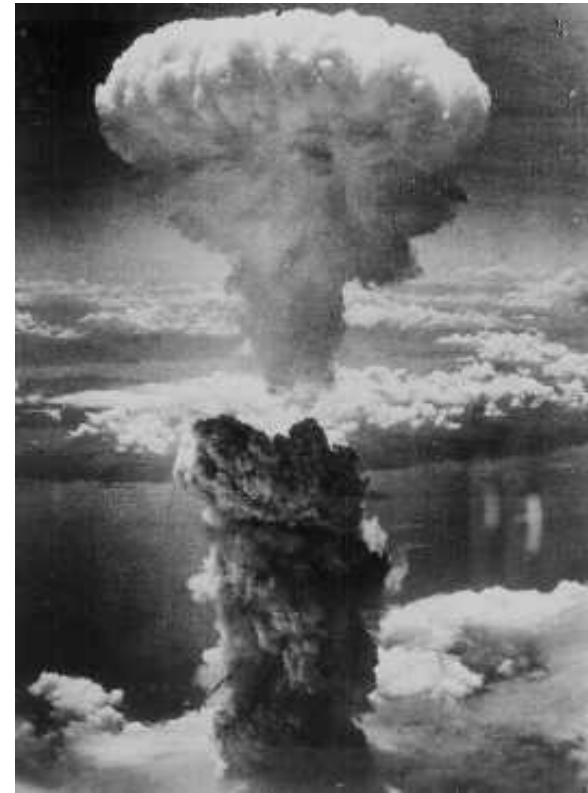


...if, however, they are divided, they could cause the greater good...

DEMOCRITUS

...or the greatest evil”

DEMOCRITUS



Sophists

- They appear in the middle of the 5th century BC.
- They take philosophical thought away from the study of natural phenomena and the search for the principle of beings to questions concerning the man himself and the society.
- They challenge traditional beliefs and form new concepts about truth, knowledge, virtue, justice, nature, law.



“Man is measure the of all things (Πάντων χρημάτων μέτρον ο άνθρωπος)

“The measure of all things is the human intelligence (Για όλα τα πράγματα μέτρο είναι η ανθρώπινη αντίληψη)

PROTAGORAS



- Rhetoric is a producer of persuasion (“πειθούς δημιουργός”).
- Speech gives man the power to achieve his purpose persuading others.

GORGIAS



-all men, barbarians or Greeks, wealthy and poor, free or slaves are by nature equal.

GORGIAS

- With Socrates, Plato and Aristotle, reflection on questions of politics and ethics and philosophical thought are driven to their heyday.

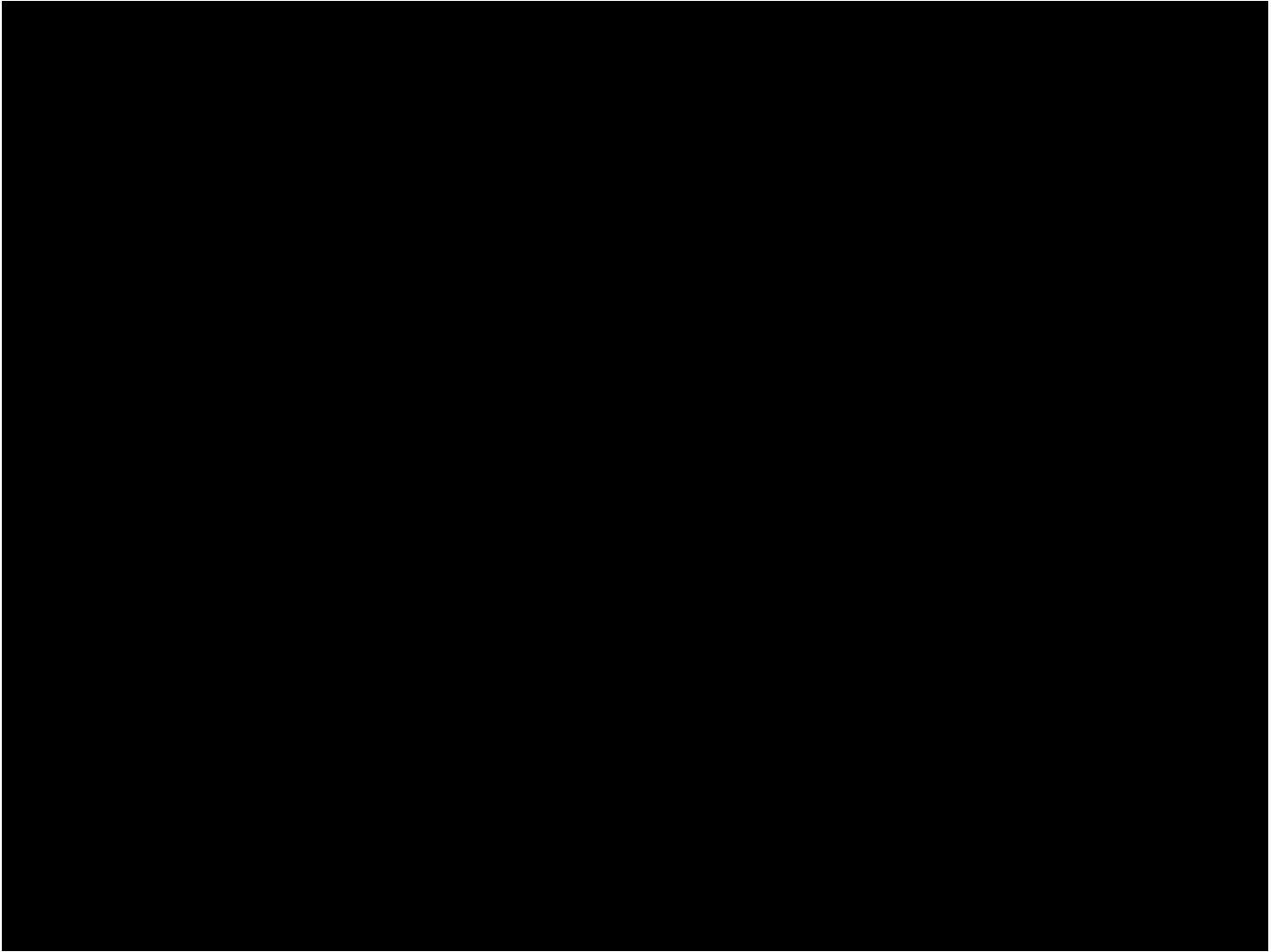
One is the absolute truth about virtue and vice, justice and injustice, and man discovers it with his mind and the dialogue and not with his sense.

No man is evil by nature (“ουδείς εκών κακός”). He just have not found anyone suitable to lead him to virtue.

SOCRATES

- Man must know himself and determine his limits. If his behavior remains within these limits, then his soul is just.

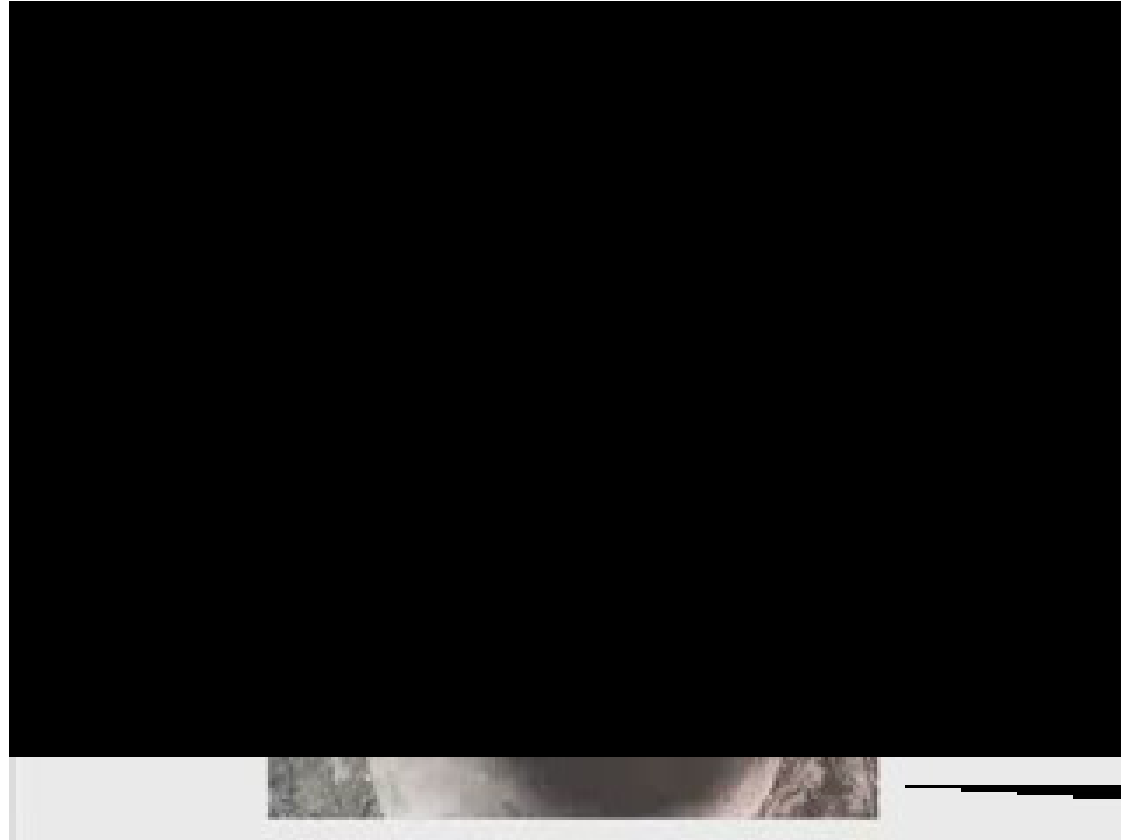
SOCRATES



- The absolute truth is called **Idea** and it is found in another world, beyond the one that we perceive with our senses.
- We can only reach this world with our mind.
- So, the **Philosopher**, who has reached this world of truth, the world of **Ideas**, is the most suitable person to properly rule a city.

PLATO

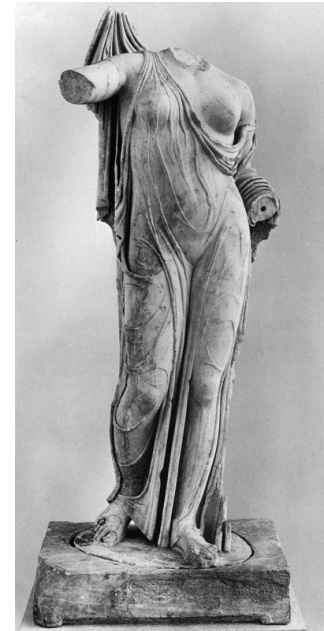




ARISTOTLE

- Nature has determined a purpose for all things, a final destination towards which everything is moving, in order to arrive in its completion.

ARISTOTLE



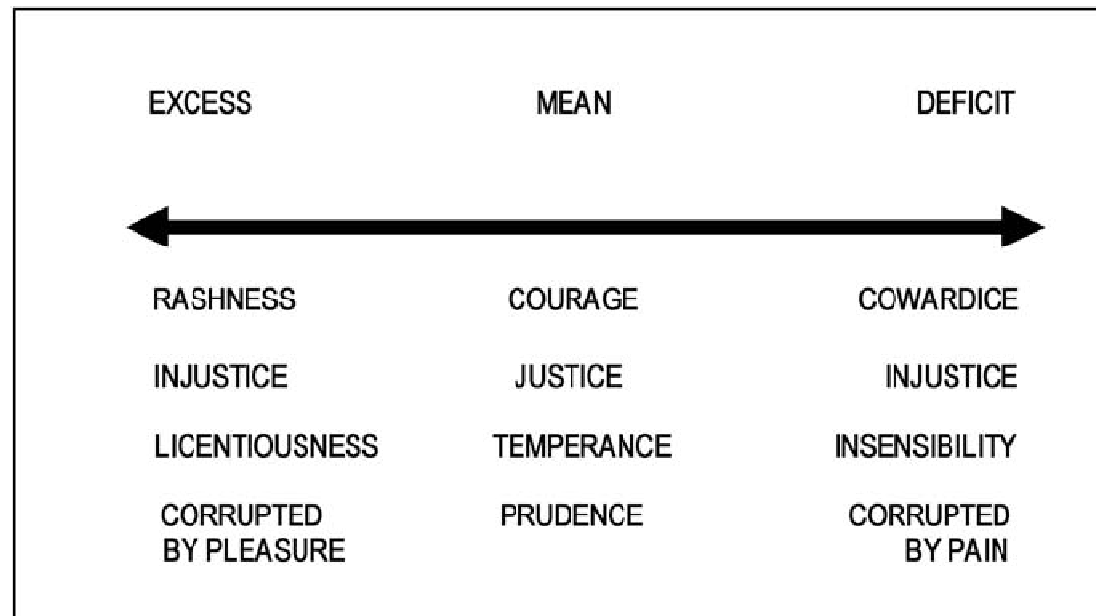
- The real nature of a thing is that into which it grows, its final completion that is determined by nature. There is a difference between the form that a thing may have at a given moment and its final form. This final form that gives a thing its identity is called Entelechy.

ARISTOTLE

- Human behavior, as well as political life, should stay within the limits of mean, avoiding both excess and deficiency.

ARISTOTLE

- Moral behavior is the mean between two extremes - at one end is excess, at the other deficiency.



ARISTOTLE

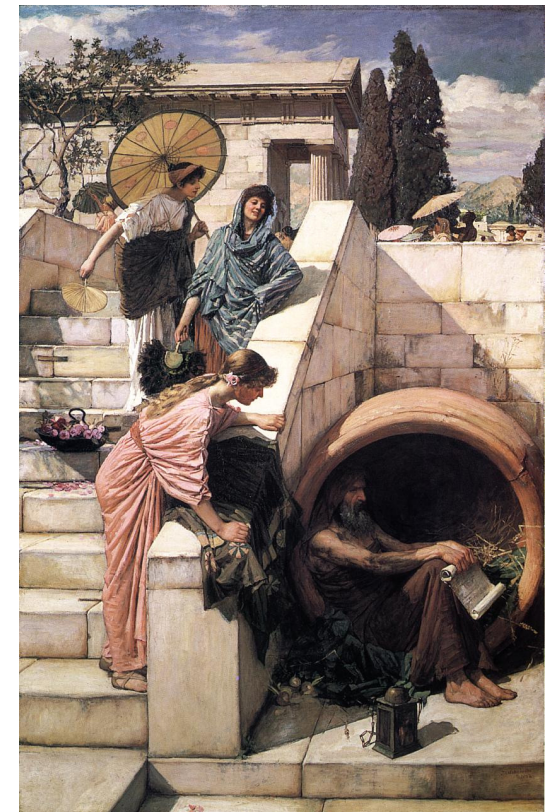
- “Polis is by nature prior to the individual”.
- “Man is by nature a political animal”, destined to live in a political society. He must, therefore, make every effort to achieve virtue, in order to lead his polis to happiness (ευδαιμονία).

ARISTOTLE

- Main features of the Hellenistic period are religious disbelief and a general pessimism.
- Hellenistic philosophy is still concerned with the same questions raised by Socrates, Plato and Aristotle. Philosophers want to answer the question: how shall a man live and die?
- What real happiness is about and how can a man get to it?

HELLENISTIC PHILOSOPHY

- The philosophical school of Cynics was founded, around 400 BC, in Athens by **Antisthenes**, a student of Socrates.
- The most famous Cynic was Diogenes, a student of Antisthenes. They say that he lived in a barrel and had nothing in his possession, but a chiton, a stick and a bag for his bread.



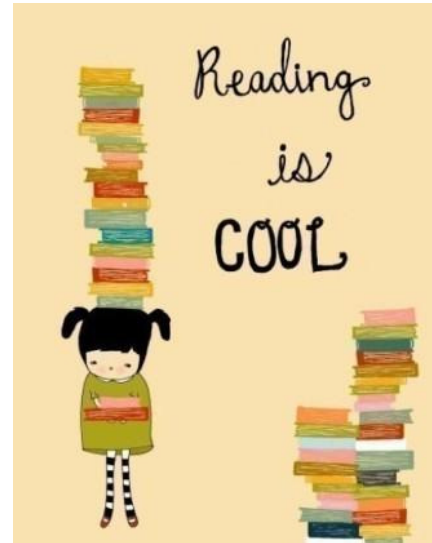


- Man's happiness lies in natural life and only with self-sufficiency, simplicity, self-awareness and exercise can someone attain it.

DIOGENES

- Every man is a whole world in a miniature, a “microcosm”, that reflects “macrocosm”. The law of nature, from which all humans come, makes them all equal to each other.

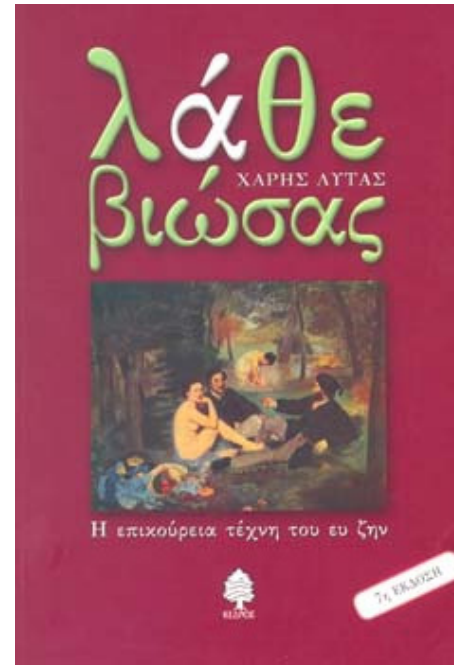
STOICS



- In order to be happy, man should seek pleasure either aesthetic or spiritual.

EPICURUS





In order to be happy, man should live withdrawn from public affairs, to attain equanimity.

EPICURUS

- The most remarkable of the philosophical movements of Late Antiquity was inspired by the platonic theory of Ideas. That's the reason that it is known as **Neo-Platonism**.

- The world unfolds between two poles. At one end there is divine light, called One and some times God. At the other, reigns the total darkness. There, does not reach the light of the One.

PLOTINUS



- The divine light of the One lights our soul, while matter is the dark, that does not have real existence.

PLOTINUS

Byzantine Philosophy

- In the Byzantine empire are not born autonomous philosophies or autonomous philosophical systems. There is certainly some production of works based on the philosophical tradition of Platonism, Aristotelianism, Neo-Platonism, Stoicism and other ancient philosophies of antiquity, but what prevails is Patristic, Christian thought and Theology.



“No one can harm the man who does himself no wrong”

“Nothing is more fallacious than wealth. It is a hostile comrade, a domestic enemy”

JOHN CHRYSOSTOM



- However, there are also voices In Byzantium detaching from the strict theological thought. Two of them are Michael Psellos and Georgios Gemistos Plethon.



- We are Greeks, like our language and our traditional culture witnesses.

GEORGIOS GEMISTUS PLETHO

- Facts are the result of strong personal conflicts, emotions and intrigues. Divine Providence does not intervene.

MICHAEL PSELLOS



Modern Greek Enlightenment

- Eugenios Voulgaris (1716-1806). His liberal ideas paved the way for the Greek Enlightenment.
- Adamantios Koraes. Influenced by the liberal ideas of Enlightenment, he fought with his writings in favor of the cultural renaissance of Greece. His main concern was the cultural development of Greeks, which he considered as a prerequisite for freedom and independence.

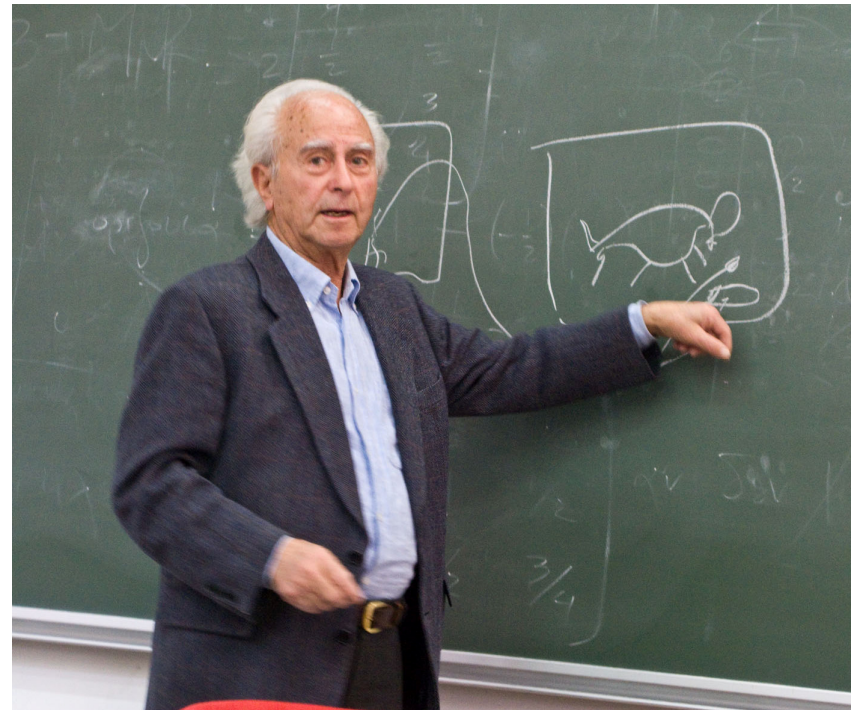


- Regas Pheraios. He is inspired by the ideas of the French Revolution and envisions a future, where all nations of Balkans of the Ottoman Empire “Bulgarians and Arvanites, Armenians and Greeks (Ρωμηοί)”, as he writes in his Thourio, will establish a modern democratic state with economic freedom.

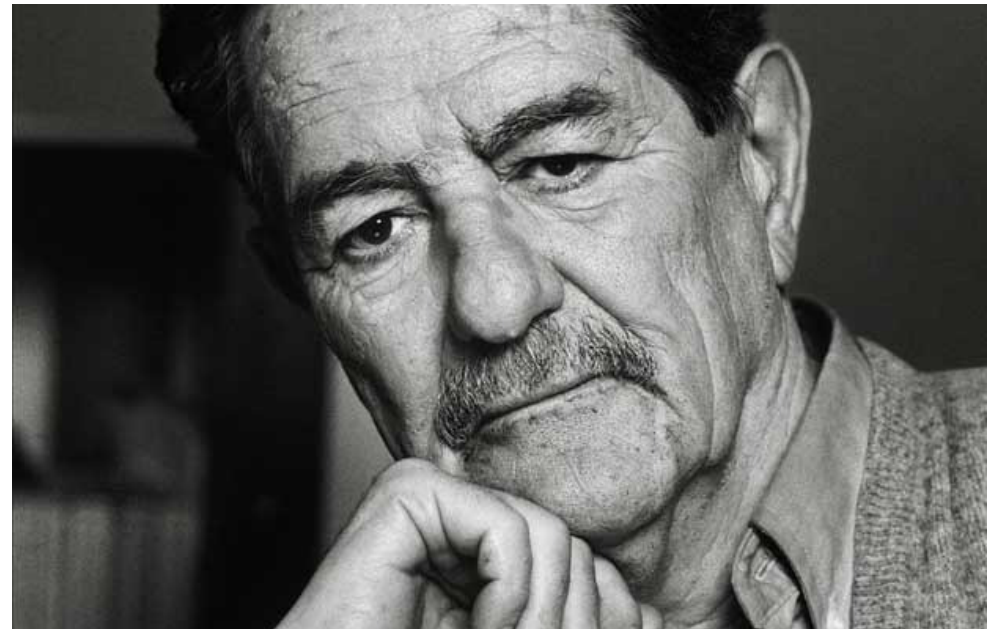


MODERN GREEK PHILOSOPHY

- Eutichis Bitsakis was born in 1927. His thought revolves around the opposition of Being and Becoming and the relationship between science and philosophy.

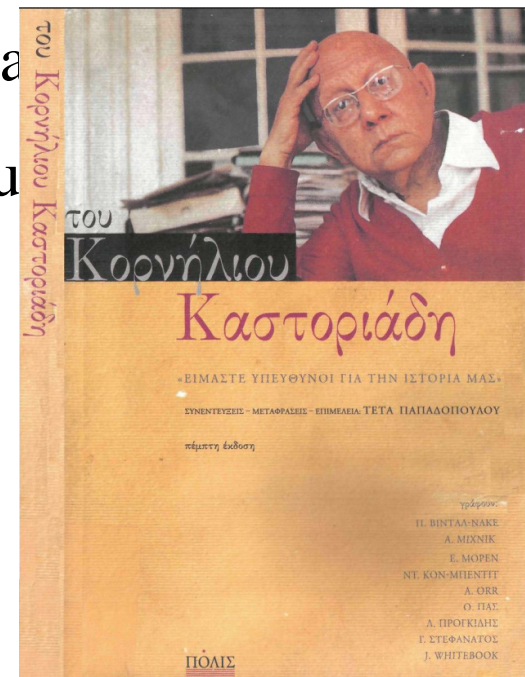


- **Kostas Axelos** (1924 - 2010) was a modern Greek thinker and philosopher.
- His thought revolves dialectically and synthetically around the thought of Pre-Socratics, Marx, Nietzsche and Freud.



Cornelios Castoriades (1922-1997)

- In the work of Castoriades, the concept of “Autonomy” holds a fundamental position, indeed, to such an extent that he was called the “Philosopher of Autonomy”. He is mainly concerned with political act, with which the society creates its own laws and institutions as well as the means to “legitimize” them, the answer, that is, to the question “these laws should be just?”.



Euangelos Papanoutsos (1900 - 1982)

- Greek pedagogue, philosopher and essayist of the 20th century.
- His thought revolved around questions ethics, aesthetic, science, knowledge, education.





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