

# INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY OF THE HUMAN PERSON

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~~EVALUATING OWN LIMITATIONS~~  
AND THE POSSIBILITIES FOR THEIR  
TRANSCENDENCE

# LEARNING OBJECTIVES

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1

Identify the possibility of a human being for transcendence

2

Defend that a human person is a embodied spirit

3

Explain the western ideas and philosophies about the dichotomy of human soul

4

Explain the Asian ideas and philosophies about the possibility for transcendence of a human person.

# Limitations

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Physical Limitations	Intellectual Limitations	Emotional Limitations
Death	Deceiving sense-perception	Extreme emotions
Sickness	Cognitive desonance	Negative impacts of emotions to decision making
Limitations of senses	Biases and Prejudices	Constant desire to pleasure and positive emotions
Dependence to food, water and oxygen	Information Overload	

# TRANSCENDENCE

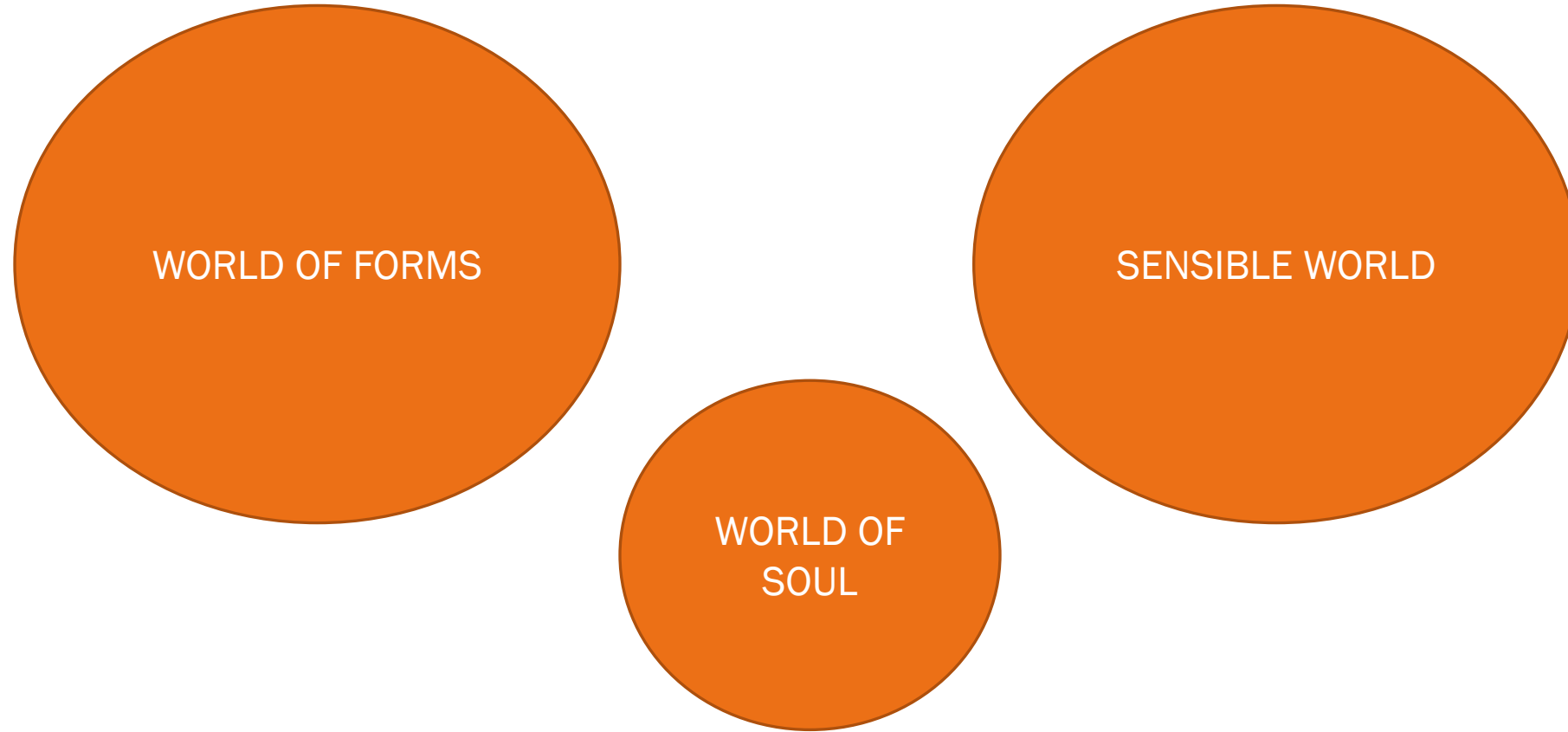
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- Transcendence means surpassing the physical experience or going past or beyond all others. in philosophy, most philosophers define it as a reality that is beyond one's consciousness.
- We mostly hear the word transcendence in theological or spiritual discussions which distinguish the separation of the soul and body or the spiritual world and the sensible world.

# WORLD OF FORMS AND IDEAS

KNOWLEDGE = AGELESS AND ENDLESS

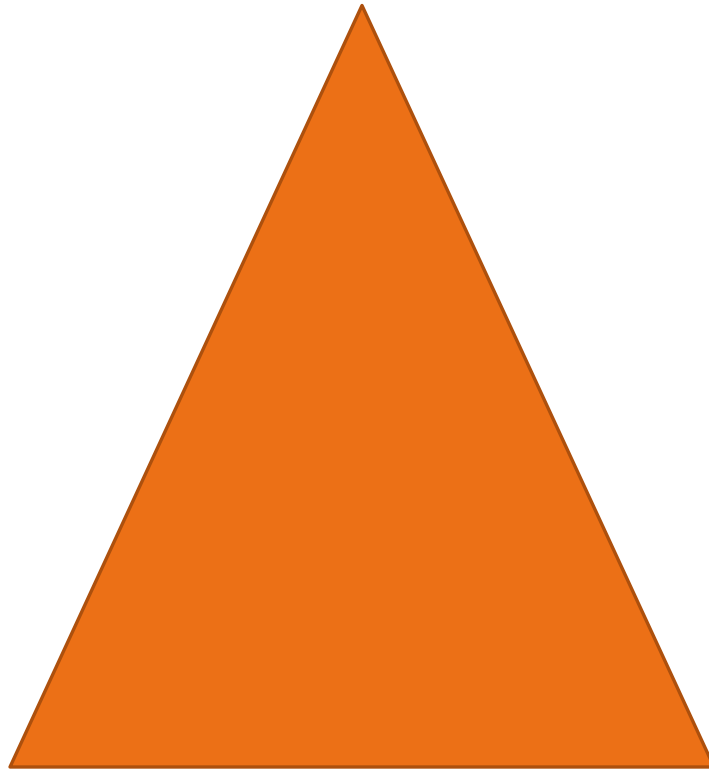
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# WORLD OF FORMS AND IDEAS

the idea of the Good is the Goal of Plato's Philosophy, the attainment of Good life.

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Good

Mathematical

Abstract

Material Objects

# Plato

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As one of the great triumvirate of the western philosophy, Plato thought that there are two different worlds that exist parallel to one another, these are the intelligible world ( **world of forms**) and the sensible world ( material world). In his theory, the objects in the material world are mere reflections of the perfect beings and objects in the world of forms.



# Example

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For example, the apples in the sensible world ( material world ) is subject to change. It can be beautiful at one time and rotten in another. Since it is only a reflection of the real apple in the world of forms, we can only see a part of the beauty of that perfect apple''

Likewise, our perception of beauty, justice, and life are also mere representations of their corresponding perfect and abstract forms in the intelligible world.

# Plato

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For plato, the world of forms is infinite and unchanging. It is an independent reality outside the scope of our mental cognition. On the contrary, the material world is changeable and unreliable. Therefore, we cannot be slaves of what we can perceive in this world. We need to find the truth that can only be found through philosophizing

# ARISTOTLE

human beings are rational animal

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Aristotle considered things as composed of co-principle which he calls **matter** and **forms** .

**FORMS**- is the principle which actualize a thing and makes a thing what it is.

**MATTER** – matter is viewed as the potentiality to receive the form.

Aristotle claims that the form refers the Soul while matter refers to the body. And since matter and forms — body and soul are co-principles **the soul cannot exist apart from the body.**

A human being is always a composite of body and soul.

# ARISTOLE

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Aristotle's philosophy is almost similar with that of Plato. He also believes that aside from physical objects that we can sense in this world, these worlds are representations of their perfect forms but these representations exist within them. Some may argue that this is the essence of an object that exists within but cannot be grasped through one's sense-perception (ex, the essence of Ymir is her essence of human beings)

However, the difference between Plato and Aristotle is that Plato believed that there are two independent worlds that exist. Meanwhile Aristotle believed that there is only one world but the form exist within physical objects. These forms are being shared by the objects that reflect their essence,

# Example

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Try to find five different chairs. We know that there are chairs that exist in different shapes, sizes and designs but how do we know that they are chairs? What makes them a chairs? As an answer, we can say that they all partake in representing the essence of chairness''

# St. Augustine

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Augustine was an African theologian known for his interpretation of the Christian thoughts based on Platonic and Neoplatonic teaching.

unlike the common belief that the soul is entrapped on the body, Augustine believed that the relationship of the soul and the body is a positive relationship.

Augustine believed that an individual human beings is a body and soul composite, similar to Plato and Aristotle belief, Augustine established that the human body is a reflection of the soul.

**The soul is superior to body, the soul rules the body.**

# AUGUSTINE: FREEWILL

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Augustine argued that the soul makes human moral. The grace of God gave the soul to humans to administer the body according to its freewill. For Augustine, the human freewill desires to live upright and honorable lives and to attain the highest wisdom.

Augustine believed that it is possible for human life to be perfected as long as they were morally responsible and will follow the eternal laws set by God.

# Thomas Aquinas: Reason

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Thomas Aquinas argued the main difference among plants, animals and the human beings is that human beings are given the function of reasoning or intellect. Similar to Augustine, Aquinas believed that God gave the gift of reason to human beings for them to understand the truth about life.





vegetative life



vegetative + sensitive life



vegetative + sensitive +  
intellectual life

# Thomas Aquinas: Reason

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Aquinas explained that reason has two parts: the Cognitive and Appetitive

Cognitive is the intellect that enables the people to know and understand.

Appetitive is the Will that makes the people desire to understand the good.

The intellectual limitations of human prevent them from knowing and understand what is good in life. This causes them to seek good things that gave immediate gratification than good things that can give long term happiness but would initially precipitate hardships.

Humans can only understand the knowledge of God through reason.

# HINDUISM

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Hinduism believes on the duality of human natures. It believes that human beings have two natures such as the spiritual and immortal essence ( soul ) and the physical life (body)

Hindus believe the main purpose of life is to seek the truth and reach the brahman or Atman ( Absolute Soul)

For Hinduism, the existence of brahman reflects the unifying principle and supreme reality behind everything in this world. It is the sole reality and is eternal, infinite, transcendent and all embracing. It contains both being and non-being. It is everything and the self of all living beings.

# Hinduism

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The primary limitations of the living beings for Hinduism is the process or rebirth of samsara. This is feed by ones karma. Which is the effect of a persons everyday activity

Salvation from samsara is called **Moksha**. Moksha is the escape from the impermanence that is an inherent feature of life.

This Is done by being one with God or Brahman.

# BUDDHISM

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Buddhism came from the word bodhi which means “to awaken, enlightenment”

Many Buddhist claim that Buddhism is not a religion but a philosophy in life

Buddhism perceive buddha as the “the teacher” and the enlightened one.

In Buddhism, the limitations of all living beings is rooted from ones bodily desires and weaknesses, hence, to reach enlightenment, one needs to have disciplined in life and follow the precepts of Buddhism.

# BUDDHISM

Buddhism think that to reach enlightenment, a person must understand the 4 noble truths which talks about the four realities of life

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Those who want to understand the meaning of life must understand these truths.

## Four Noble truths

Life is suffering(life includes pain, old diseases, death)

Suffering is caused by craving and aversion

Suffering can be overcome by true happiness and affinity to the world

The 8 fold path is the path which leads to the end of suffering

## 8 FOLD PATHS

### RIGHT UNDERSTANDING

RIGHT INTENTION/THOUGHT

RIGHT SPEECH

RIGHT ACTION

RIGHT LIVELIHOOD

RIGHT EFFORT

RIGHT MINDFULNESS

RIGHT CONCENTRATION

# SUMMARY

## Augustine

- Soul administers the body
- Human life can be perfected by following the eternal laws

## Thomas Aquinas

- Humans are given the gift of intellect or reason
- This reason is the only tool of human to understand and know God's knowledge

## Hinduism

- Transcendence is met through being with atman or brahma
- Life undergoes samsara

## Buddhism

- Transcendence is met through enlightenment.
- 4 noble truth
- 8 fold paths

Thank you!

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