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1. ABOUT PHILOSOPHY

What is philosophy?

Philosophy can be defined as study of abstractness of human mind, and how external factors affect it. These can be intuitively felt as the complex web formed within and with others, mentally. Suppose, two people are interacting to share some ideas among themselves. And this interaction results in change of emotional state among the two individuals involved in the conversation. Then the abstract reasoning behind those changes can be categorized as a philosophy. Well, some will say that’s what psychology is, but reality is that psychology is subset of philosophy. Psychology will be more about analysing the reasoning through what’s known, unlike philosophy which also takes what is not known or unproven facts under account. A philosopher might mention points from another philosopher’s philosophy to derive his points.

On more near the edge, philosophy can also be known for pondering over unanswered questions about life which can’t be answered with science, and in sometimes even experience is not sufficient to answer some philosophical questions. These include abstract questions like:

1. Does God exist?
2. If God exist, what was the purpose behind creating the universe?
3. Why people reproduce? Is it just for biological sense of importance?
4. What are fixed rules of moral?
5. If we know what’s right and wrong as per us, why most people don’t take any action upon their beliefs?

Why is philosophy important?

Well, it is important to know about yourself and the world you are surrounded with. Without a clear motivation and understanding about the world, you will end up believing in what might be wrong, and not knowing what’s going on behind which normal people can’t see through. Also, you will be able to identify if someone is taking advantage of you through thorough understanding of general motives of people. Any kind of philosophy one studies or ponders upon, it is very much necessary for him to verify the real-world facts and statistics shared. And even thoroughly check background of the sources and people who write them.

Who studies philosophy?

Most people who read philosophy are the ones who had hard disillusionment through their experiences. Such cases are linked to negative experiences like PTSD (post traumatic stress disorder) through violent experience, facing very tough and unexpected betrayal, losing a close person etc. These negative phases however, are proved to be the pinnacle of mental activity in terms of abstract pondering. Society in general keeps most people away from getting into that state of mind. And most deluded people also form core part of any society.

There are also such people who start pondering about abstract questions for being socially isolated for a too long time. Being alone & out of emotional field of influence, one starts thinking free of constraints. I belong to this category. These people in general have a curious mind to explore possibilities & question what’s not often.

One thing worth noting is that most people who haven’t gone through above mentioned situation generally avoid being put into that box of pondering, or questioning the not often asked questions. But there are also such people who just need to be talked about these questions, which work as a required torque on them to get into that box. It is my personal advice to not bother a person and generally avoid those, who make "Ad’ hominem attacks" on you or anyone.

Well, what’s that? Ad’ hominem attack is a term used to define abusive or ridiculous manner of verbal attack on a person or a group of people for their believes, without any counter to their statements. Means if you know that you are right logically when trying to prove your facts true, but still despite the clear evidence the person throws insults at you as counter, we call it Ad’ hominem attack.

How to study philosophy?

There is no one clear answer to this question. There are actually many ways to do so. Some prefer reading some famous philosopher’s book. While some prefer to experience the things as they come by, forming the basis of their philosophy. But one thing is for sure, there must be no biasness in philosophy. Unlike the economical or political book you might have read which written by someone, which generally has an alignment toward a political belief.

Then there are more than one kind of philosophy categories with variety of schools to study about. I personally believe that one should know as much philosophy as required to get a good picture of the world they are surrounded with & enough to distinguish them from the conventional thinkers.

When to study philosophy?

Philosophy must be studied when a person is low on energy & stably composed in their mood. It includes time before sleep, free time in weekend, when near nature, alone etc. This ensures that the person is free from any work and their tranquil peace of mind. Many belief that being melancholic is the right time to study philosophy, particularly referring to areas like pessimism or nihilism etc. But studying philosophy must be free of any kind of intense emotion. This is because doing so sets a good intention and disciplined approach to doing so. Otherwise, one ends up just being a mere puppet of their emotion, who make claims as per how they feel without being authentic actually.