



The Self in Philosophical Perspectives

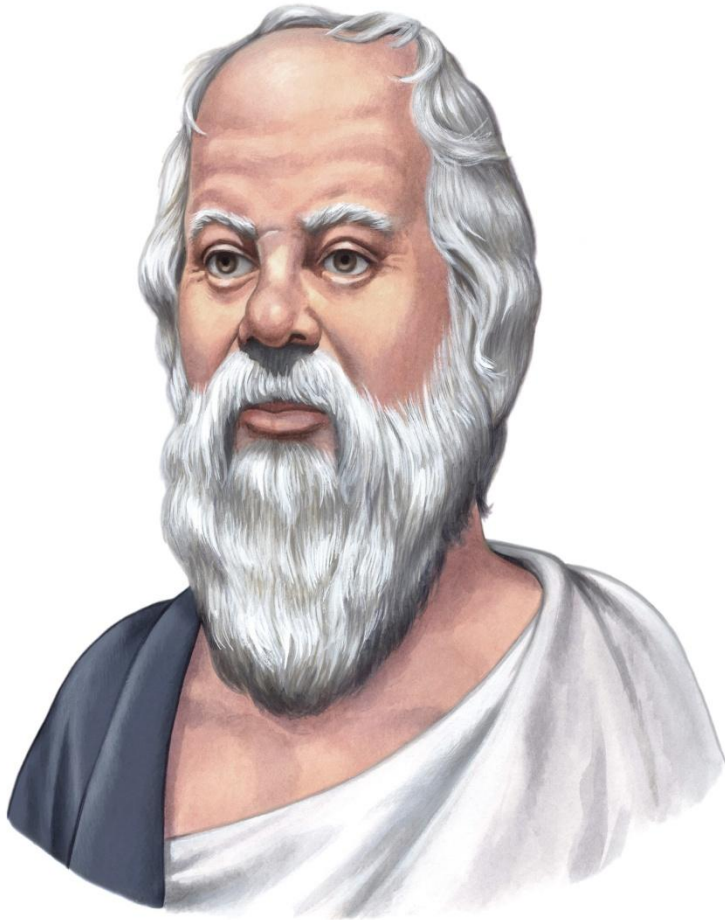
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Socrates

-“Know Thyself”

-“Market Philosopher”

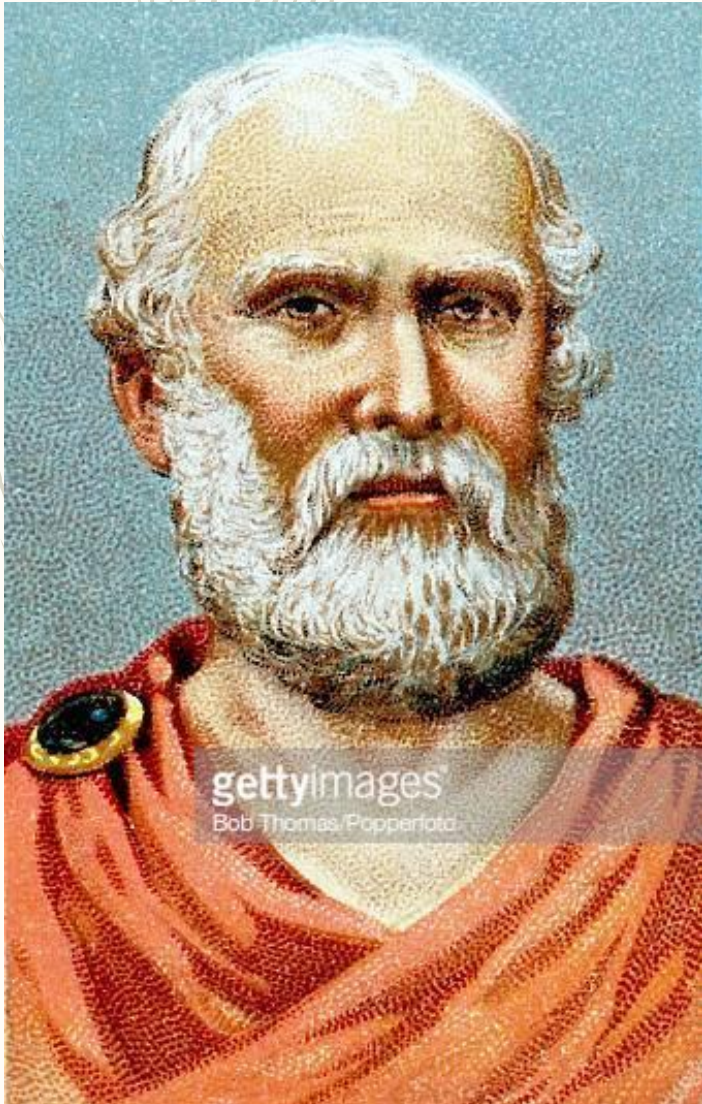
-“An unexamined life is not worth living”



Socrates

- There was a soul first before man's body.
- The soul has knowledge by direct intuition and all these are stored in his mind.
- He lost it in the world of senses.
- It can be restored through dialectic method or the **Socratic Method**.
- It is the exchange of question and answer to make the person remember.

Plato



-Socrates' prized student

-Founded the Academy
(*Academia*)

Plato

- Man is composed of body and soul.
- The soul is the true self (unchanging and permanent self). (Ideal World)
- The body is the replica of true self (changing, getting older, etc.).
(Material World)
- The body is considered as prison of our soul.
- We continue to exist even the absence of bodies because we are souls only.

Plato

–The soul is composed of three
components:

- Rational soul – reason and intellect
- Spirited soul – in charge of emotions
- Appetitive soul – eating, drinking, sleeping,
and even sexual needs

Augustine



-Self-confessed sinner

-Bishop of Canterbury

-Inspired by Plato

Augustine

- Plato's idea of Ideal World (World of Forms) gave him a philosophical idea of God and returned to Christianity.
- Our world is only temporary home.
- The real world is where the God is. As God is the ultimate expression of love.
- Out of that love, he created man in His image.
- Eternal law is the law of conscience that tells us if our action is morally good or bad.

Thomas Aquinas



**-Most eminent 13th
century scholar**

**-Supported Augustine's
view**

Thomas Aquinas

- Man is composed of two parts:
 - Matter – “hyle” in Greek, “common stuff that makes up everything in the universe” (body)
 - Form – “morphe” in Greek, “the essence of substance or thing” (soul)
- The soul is what animates the body; it is what makes us humans.

He argues that there is a God.

– 4 COSMOLOGICAL ARGUMENTS

- -Argument from motion
- -Argument from Causation
- - Argument of Contingency

Contingent being = any being that could have not existed

Necessary being = a being that has always existed

- -Argument from Degrees
- -Argument by Theology



Rene Descartes



**-Father of Modern
Philosophy**

**-“I think, therefore, I
am.” (Cogito ergo sum)**

Rene Descartes

- The mind (cogito) and body (extenza) are separate but the mind is conjoined with the body.
- The essence of the Self is in its being a thinking being
 - the Self is more being the Mind more than the body.
- When the body is gone, the mind may continue to exist and function.

John Locke



**-Father of Classical
Liberalism**

-Inspired by Descartes

John Locke

- Our self is not locked in the mind, soul, or body only.
- He included the concept of person's memory.
- We are the same person as the past as long as we can remember something from the past.
- We are connected to that past as long as our memories are around, we are around.

David Hume



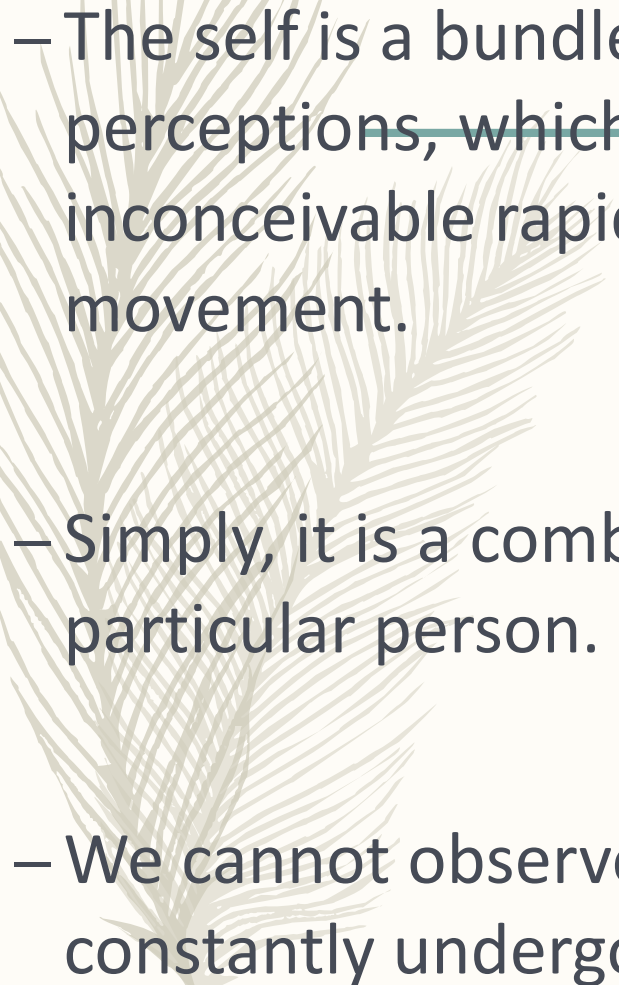
-Wrote the book,
“History of England”

-Empiricist

David Hume

- **Empiricism** is a school of thought that knowledge is possible if it is sensed or experienced.
- The mind is divided into two:
 - **Impressions** – what we perceive through our senses as we experience them
 - **Ideas** – what we create in our minds even though we no longer experience them

David Hume

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- The self is a bundle or collection of different perceptions, which succeed each other with an inconceivable rapidity, and are in perpetual flux and movement.
 - Simply, it is a combination of all experiences with a particular person.
 - We cannot observe any permanent self because we constantly undergo change, so there is no self.

Immanuel Kant



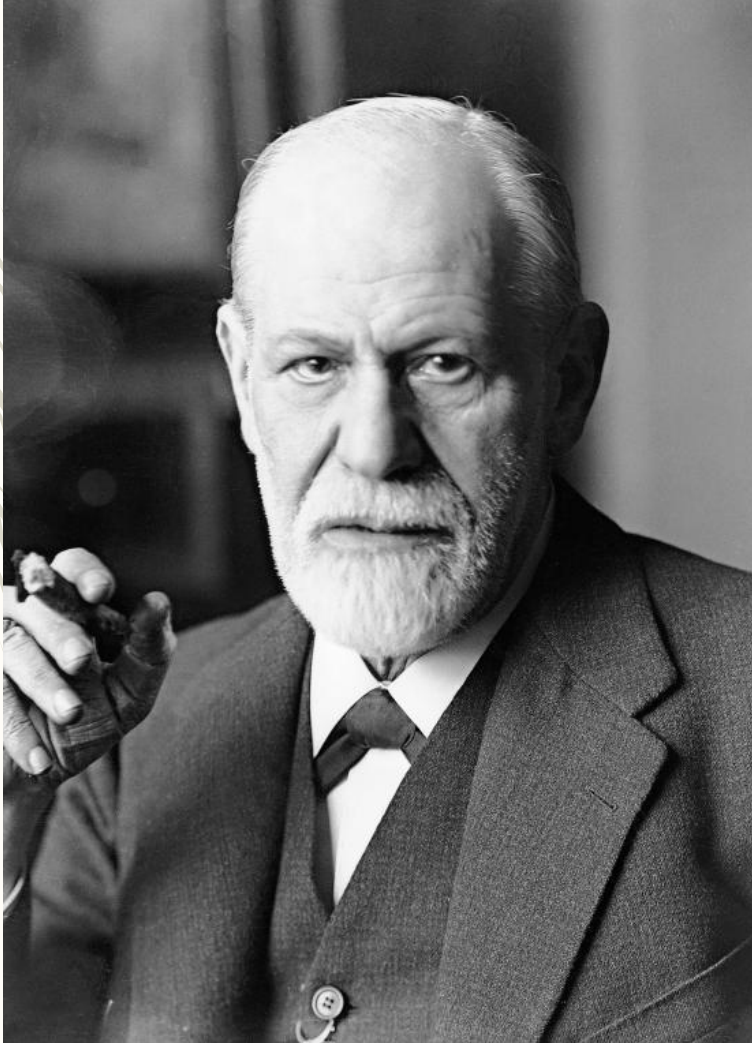
- Refuted Hume's idea of self

- “All our knowledge begins with the senses, proceeds then to the understanding, and ends with the reason. There is nothing higher than reason.”

Immanuel Kant

- Man is a free agent, capable of making a decision for himself. We are gifted with reason and free will.
- We have the free will to be moral or not. Every person should not be exploited or used.
- To know our duty, we have to rationally deliberate on it, not expect that higher authority will hand it to us, and not let our emotion guide us.

Sigmund Freud



**-Father of
Psychoanalysis**

**-“The ego is not
master in its own.”**

Sigmund Freud

- Our mind has three components:
 - Id – desires and impulses
 - Ego – Self (negotiator)
 - Superego – moral standards
- Subconscious mind – Where the battle between id and superego takes place
- Conscious mind – Where the realm of the ego is found

Gilbert Ryle



-His philosophy
centers on language
through linguistic
analysis

-Examined the
university

Gilbert Ryle

- The mind expresses the entire system of thoughts, emotions, actions, and so on that make up the human self.
- This mind is part of the body. The only way we can know how the mind is working is through behavior of the person, hence we can only know a person through how he behaves, his tendencies, and reactions in certain situations.

Maurice Merleau-Ponty



-“We know not
through our intellect
but through our
experience.”

Maurice Merleau-Ponty

- The self is grounded on the experiences from the past, the possibilities for the future, and the present cognition.
- The self is a continuous flow of movement and expression from infancy and adulthood. It is the product of our conscious human experience.
- It is all about one's perception of experiences and interpretation of those experiences.