Boquiron Jad Paulo V.

Understanding the Self

1.  What idea of the self can be deduced out of the conversation between Socrates and Cebes?

-Socrates believed that the self is composed of two parts, the physical body which undergoes multiple changes throughout the time and the soul as the true self which remains the eternal. He also stated in the conversation that the body and soul are in different aspects of realm. That being the other world is ever-changing and the other is eternal.

2. What are the difficulties of these dualistic view according to Plato?

-Plato wondered how do the body and soul interact to one another. As both of it belong to different realms, he questioned “If the soul is eternal and the body is physical, how would they affect one another?”.

3. What problem is being highlighted by the assertion of Diotima?

Based on Diotima, she challenges the concept behind the eternal soul. Diotima explained that everything about ourselves is prone to changes throughout the time. Humans are in constant change may it be physically or mentally.

4.How does Diotima answer the problem?

As such she mentioned that the form of eternal life is not immortality itself rather it is the way of continuing life through our off-springs.

5. How is Diotima’s position on the soul and personal identity different from that of Plato?

Diotima perception of the soul is different compared to what plato mentioned. Plato stated about how the soul achieves a state of eternity, yet it is against what Diotima believes in. Diotima stated that everything about ourselves cannot remain the same forever.

6. What book and what passage in the book did Plato discuss his three-part soul?

Plato's concept about the three-part soul is mentioned in the Traditional to Modern Notions of Self Chapter 3.

7. What particular analogy did Plato use in the Phaedrus?

Plato stated that the soul is similar to a chariot drawn by two powerful winged horses.

8. How did Plato describe these two (2) winged horses and their relevance to his idea of the soul?

According to Plato, the three-part soul is connected to his particular analogy of the soul. The noble horse is seen to be as the "Spirit" and the wild horse representing "Appetite". The noble horse could be seen as "Spirit" for its desire for honor and courage. The wild horse on the other hand symbolizes pleasure and desires. Both horses emphasize the will of the soul to pursue our objectives.

9. What is Plato’s three-part soul?

Reason, Appetite and Spirit are the three-part soul he mentioned in the passage. Plato believed that a just and harmonious soul is one where the rational part governs the spirited and appetitive parts, maintaining a balance between reason and desire

10. Can Genuine Happiness be achieved in Platonic Philosophy? If yes, How?

Definitely, Plato mentioned that for us to achieve great happiness, one must mention the need for knowledge and pursue virtues throughout our lives. This leads to much greater purpose in life resulting for us to have the reason to fulfill our lives.

11. For Plato, where, most probably, is the soul located?

As for Plato, he believed that the form of a soul is not present in a physical medium, rather he considered the soul as an essence of living the people.