

### Food for thought



Philosophy, like all other studies, aims primarily at knowledge. The knowledge it aims at is the kind of knowledge which gives unity and system to the body of the sciences, and the kind which results from a critical examination of the grounds of our convictions, prejudices, and beliefs. But it cannot be maintained that philosophy has had any very great measure of success in its attempts to provide definite answers to its questions. If you ask a mathematician, a mineralogist, a historian, or any other man of learning, what definite body of truths has been ascertained by his science, his answer will last as long as you are willing to listen. But if you put the same question to a philosopher, he will, if he is candid, have to confess that his study has not achieved positive results such as have been achieved by other sciences. It is true that this is partly accounted for by the fact that, as soon as definite

knowledge concerning any subject becomes possible, this subject ceases to be called philosophy, and becomes a separate science. The whole study of the heavens, which now belongs to astronomy, was once included in philosophy; Newton's great work was called 'the mathematical principles of natural philosophy'. Similarly, the study of the human mind, which was a part of philosophy, has now been separated from philosophy and has become the sciences of psychology. Thus, to a great extent, the uncertainty of philosophy is more apparent than real: those questions which are already capable of definite answers are placed in the sciences, while those only to which, at present, no definite answer can be given, remain to form the residue which is called philosophy.

#### Reference:

**Russell Bertrand: Problems of Philosophy, Chapter 15, 'Value of Philosophy'**

## Thought



Thought, I love thought.  
But not the jiggling and twisting of  
already existent ideas  
I despise that self-important game.  
Thought is the welling up of unknown  
life into consciousness,  
Thought is the testing of statements  
on the touchstone of the conscience,

Thought is gazing on to the face of  
life, and reading what can be read,  
Thought is pondering over experience,  
and coming to a conclusion.  
Thought is not a trick, or an exercise,  
or a set of dodges,  
Thought is a man in his wholeness  
wholly attending.

- D. H. Lawrence

### Let's try

- 1) Think of someone you know who you think is a really good person. What makes that person a good person?
- 2) Let's all think. What are you thinking about?

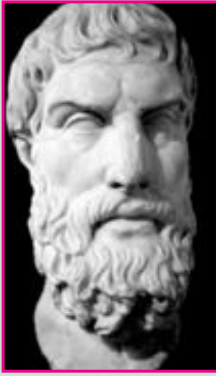
Can you think about what you're thinking about?

Let's try wondering. What are you wondering about?

Can you wonder about what you're wondering about?

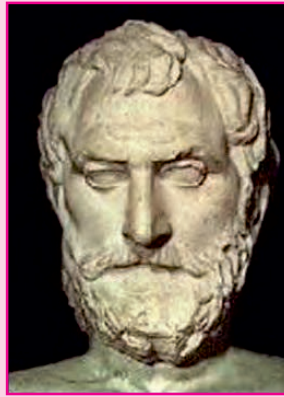


- 3) Think of something that's real.  
Is there a way it might not be real?  
Think of something that's not real.  
Is there a way it could be real?
- 4) Wonder why  
Wonder how  
Wonder what  
Wonder when  
Wonder who  
Wonder if



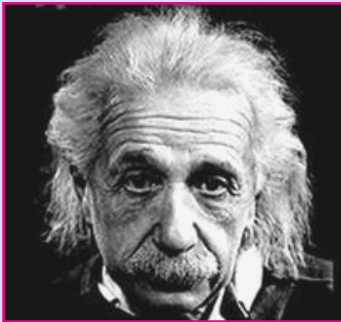
Happiness and freedom begin with a clear understanding of one principle. Some things are within your control. And some things are not.

– Epictetus



"The most difficult thing in life is to know yourself."

– Thales



A person who never made a misake never tried anything new.

– Albert Einstein



"Real knowledge is to know the extent of one's ignorance."

– Confucius