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INTRODUCING PHILOSOPHY

Logic

- ★ **As a field of study**: it is a branch of philosophy that deals with the study of arguments and the principles and methods of **right reasoning**
- ★ **As an instrument**: it is something, which we can use to formulate our own rational arguments and critically evaluate the soundness of other' arguments

Philosophy

- ✓ It is the study of general and fundamental problems concerning matters such as existence, knowledge, truth
- ✓ a rational and critical enterprise that tries to answer fundamental questions through an intensive application of reason - an application that draws on analysis, comparison, and evaluation
- ✓ It involves **reason, rational criticism, examination, and analysis**



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Lesson 1: Meaning and Nature of Philosophy

- philosophy etymologically - "love of wisdom"
- as a pursuit of wisdom, philosophy refers to
 - ✓ the development of critical habits, the continuous search for truth, and the questioning of the apparent
- Giving a clear-cut definition of philosophy is difficult. because philosophy has no a specific subject matter to primarily deal with

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- Philosophy **deals primarily with issues**. issues, which are universal in nature
- Philosophy **is not as elusive** nor is it remote from our various problems
- **the best way to learn and understand philosophy is to philosophize**; i.e.
 - ✓ to be confronted with **philosophical questions**
 - ✓ to use **philosophical language**
 - ✓ to become acquainted with differing **philosophical positions and manoeuvres**
 - ✓ to **read the philosophers themselves**, and to grapple with the issues for oneself
- Socrates once stated: "Wonder is the feeling of a philosopher, and philosophy begins in wonder"
- We all have touched and moved by the feelings of wonder from which all philosophy derives. We all

- Not all wisdoms are philosophy
- The wisdom that philosophers seek is **not the wisdom of the expertise or technical skills of professionals**
- According to Socrates, wisdom consists of a critical habit and eternal vigilance about all things and a reverence for truth, whatever its form, and wherever its place
- Based on the Socratic understanding of wisdom, **philosophy, as a pursuit of wisdom, is**
 - ✓ the **development of critical habits**

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- ✓ the **continuous search for truth**
- ✓ the **questioning of the apparent**
- To **interrogate the obvious** means to deal creatively with the phenomenal world, to go beyond the common understanding, and to speculate about things that other people accept with no doubt
- questioning/criticism is not the final end of philosophy, though
 - ★ **raising the right question** is often taken not only as the beginning and direction of philosophy but also as its essence

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- The **philosophical enterprise**, as **Vincent Barry** stated, is “an active imaginative process of formulating proper questions and resolving them by rigorous, persistent analysis”
- Philosophy has
 - **Constructive side**: it attempts to **formulate rationally defensible answers to certain fundamental questions** concerning the nature of reality, the nature of value, and the nature of knowledge and truth.
 - **Critical side**: it deals with **giving a rational critic, analysis, clarification, and evaluation of answers** given to basic metaphysical, epistemological, and axiological questions
- **Philosophy is an activity**. It is not something that can be easily mastered or learned in schools.
- The product of philosophizing is philosophy as a product. However, what makes someone a great philosopher is not the produced philosophy, but his/her outstanding ability to philosophize.

Lesson 2: Basic Features of Philosophy

- philosophy has its own salient features that distinguishes it from other academic disciplines
1. **Philosophy is a set of views or beliefs about life and the universe, which are often held uncritically**
 - It is **informal sense** of philosophy or
 - **“Having a philosophy”**
 - referring to an informal personal attitude



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