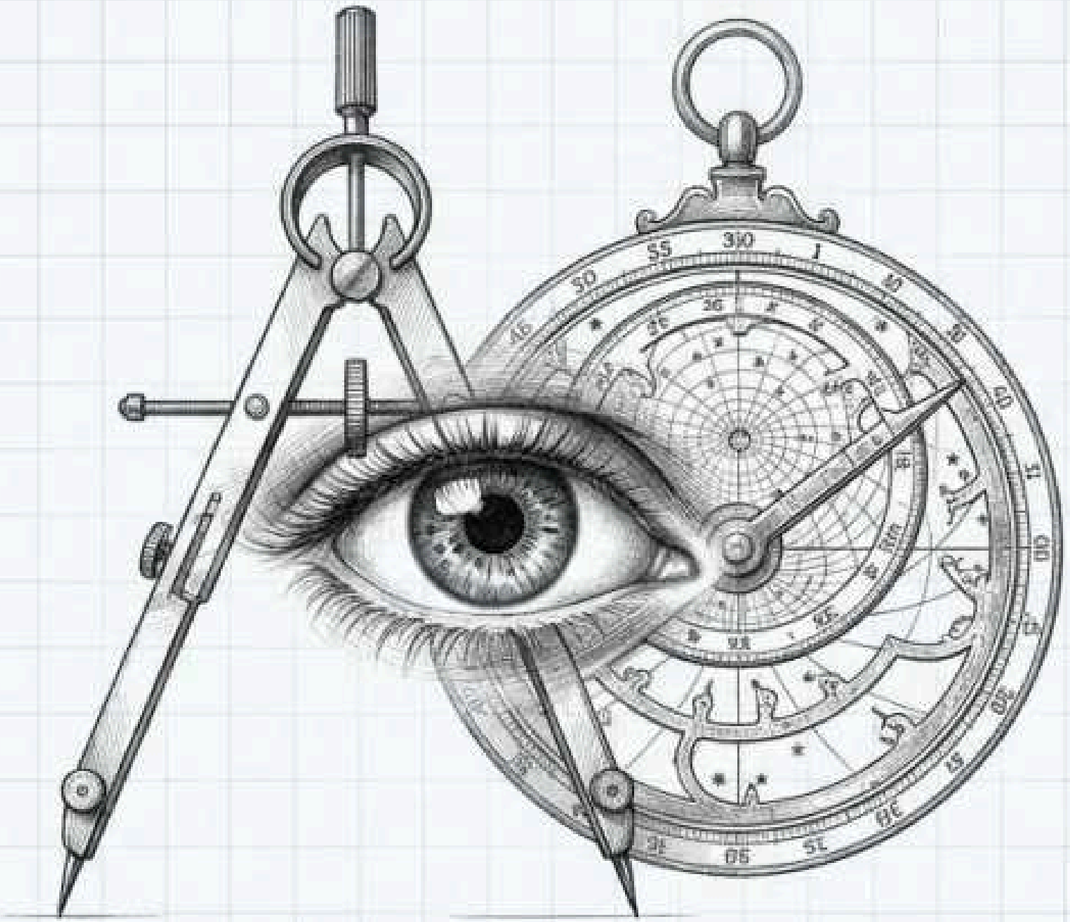
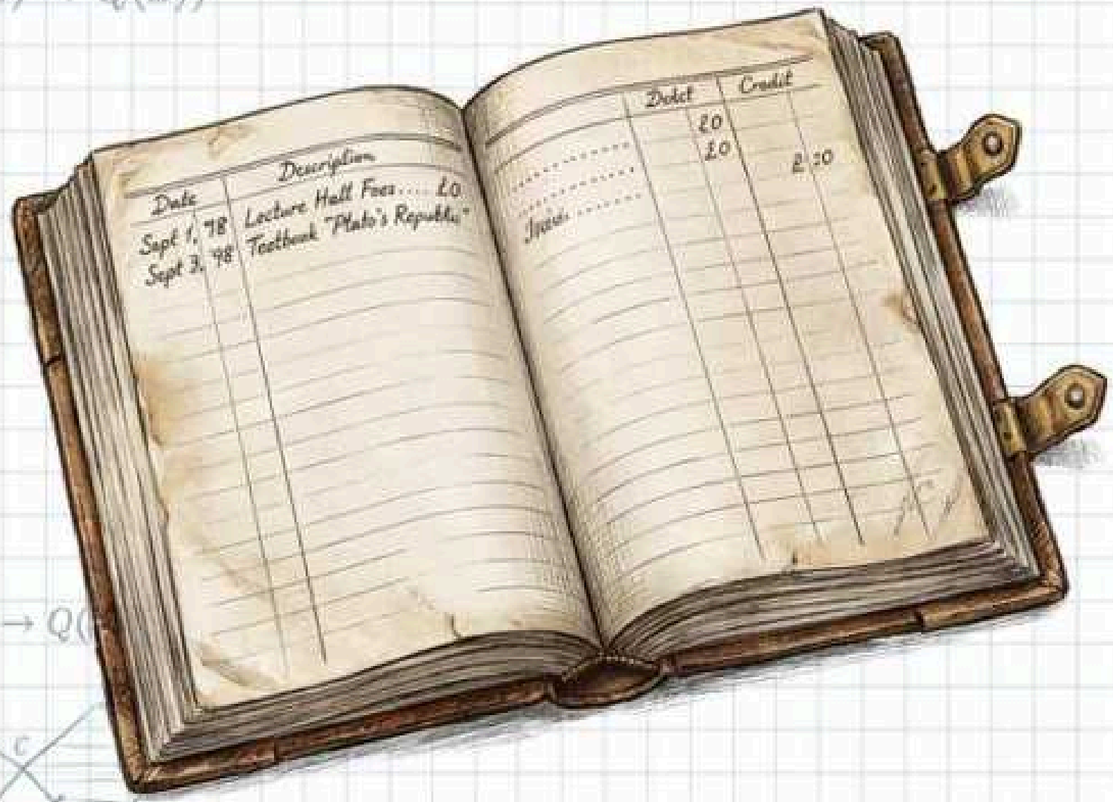


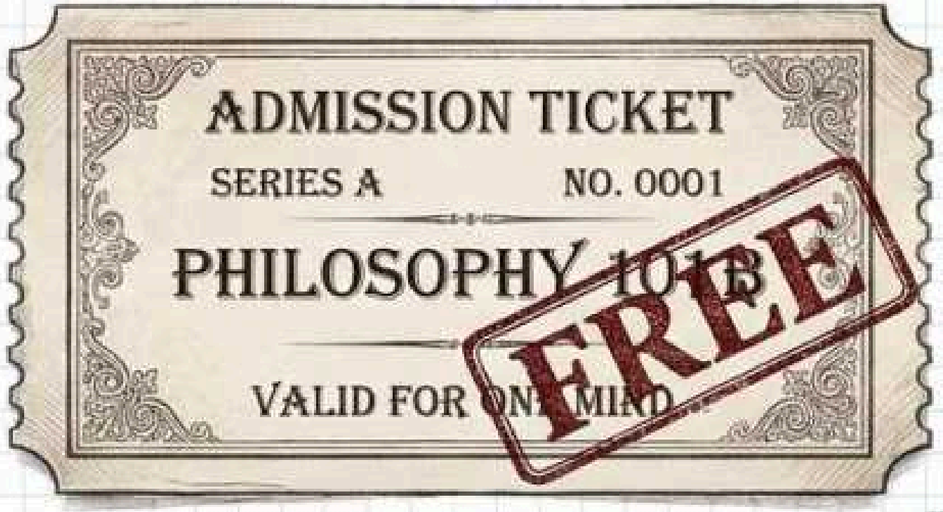
PHIL 101 B: What is Philosophy?

Origins, Methods, and Distinctions.

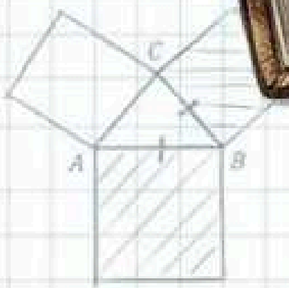
¶ 1.1

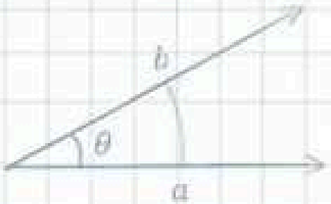
Welcome to Philosophy 101 B.





This course is open. This course is free.

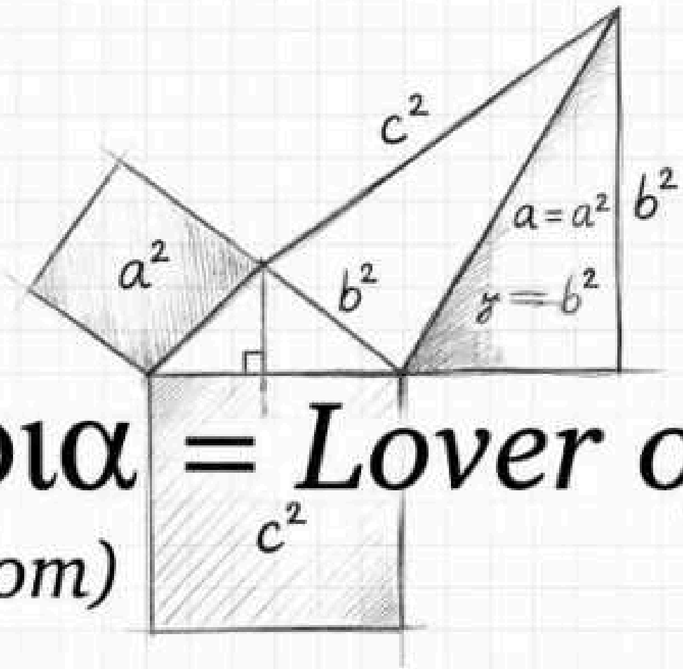




Gemini Notebook

¶1.2

Coined by Pythagoras



$$\Phi\iota\lambda\iota\alpha + \Sigma o\varphi\iota\alpha = \textit{Lover of Wisdom.}$$

(Love) *(Wisdom)*

$\vec{v}$

Philosophy is a vector (a pursuit), not a fixed coordinate (a possession).

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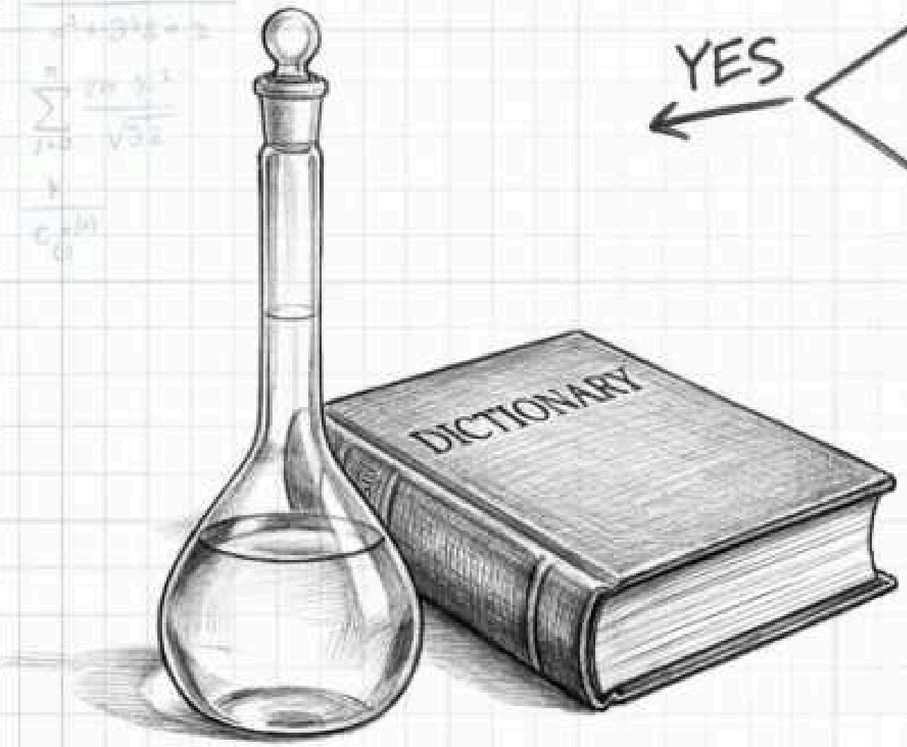
A Question.

¶ 1.3

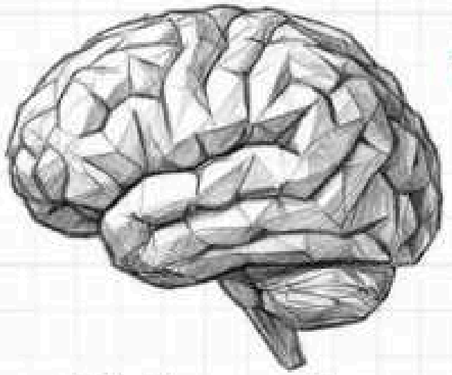
Can it be settled by experiment or look-up?

YES

NO



Science & Reference



Philosophy

Examining the assumptions the rest of us live by.

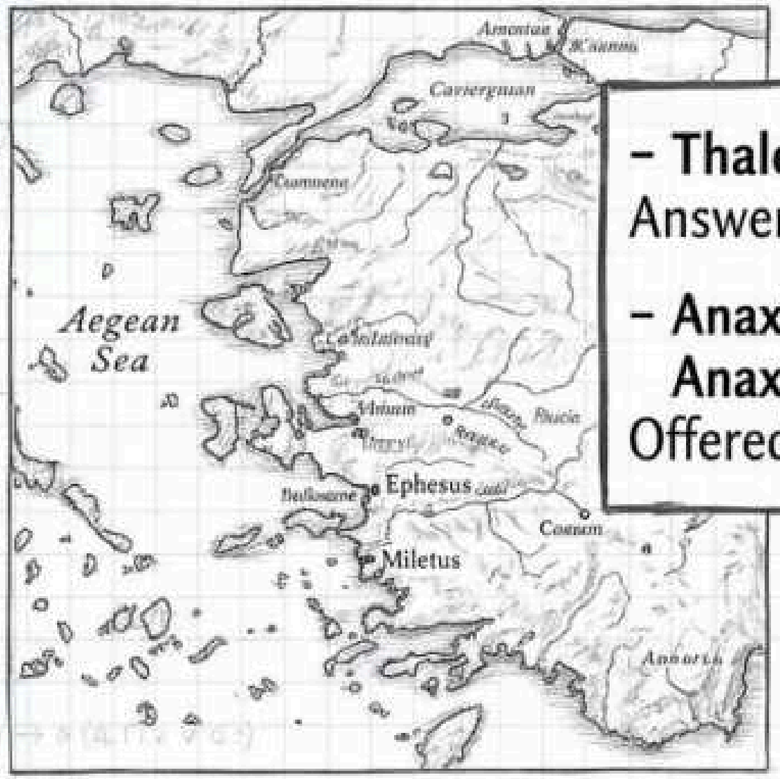


Tool: Reasoning.

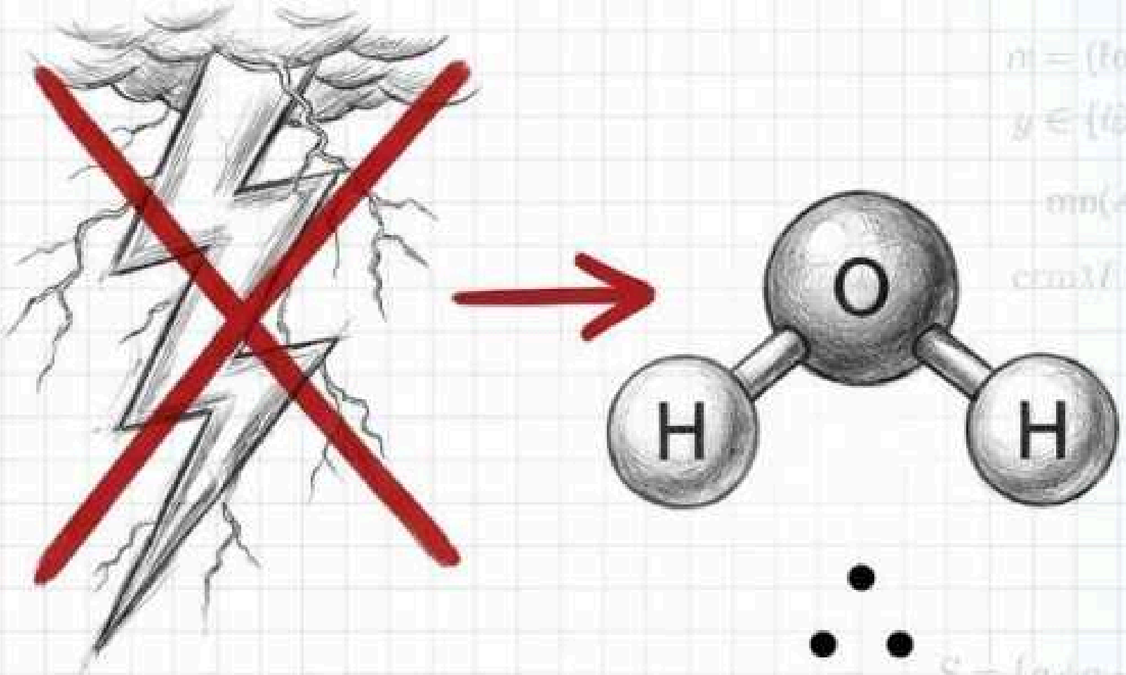
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The Birth of Natural Explanation.

¶ 1.4



- **Thales of Miletus:** Answered Water.
- **Anaximander & Anaximenes:** Offered rival answers.



The answer matters less than the method:

Natural explanation + Open criticism > Stories of the gods.

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The Socratic Method

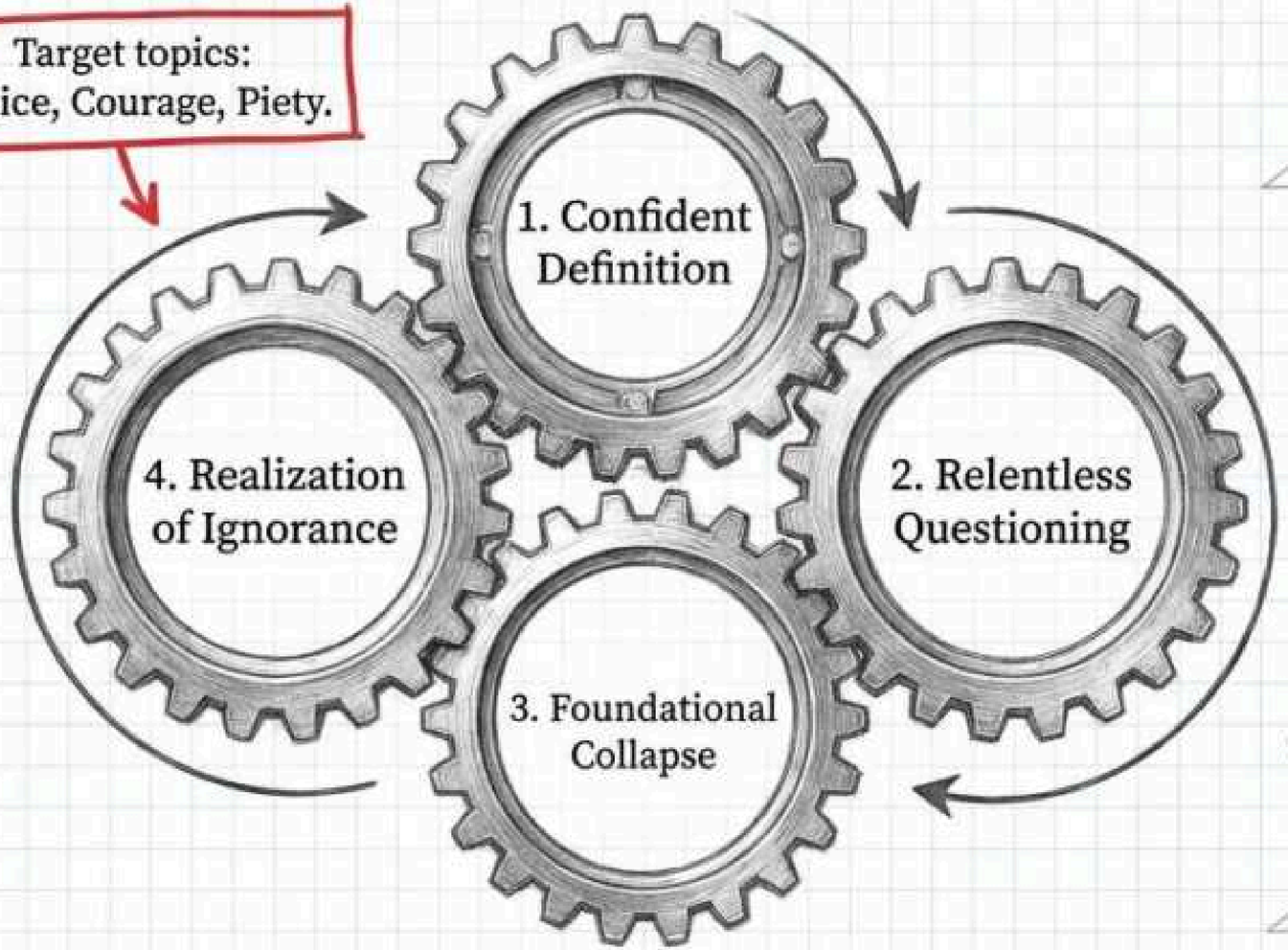
¶1.5



Socrates (Athens, 470–399 BC)
– Philosophy's founding martyr.

(Reason for death: Impiety & corrupting the young).

Target topics:
Justice, Courage, Piety.



Core paradigm shift: From Study of Nature -> How to Live.

Wisdom = Knowing you do not know.

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The Lineage of Western Philosophy

¶ 1.6

Socrates

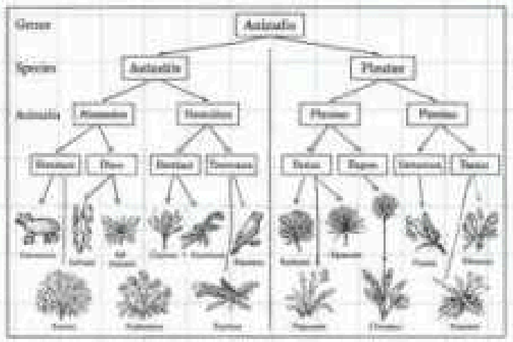
(Wrote nothing)

Plato



The Academy: *First university. Preserved & transformed the Socratic method via Dialogues.*

Aristotle



The Lyceum: *First systematic treatments (Logic, Nature, Ethics, Politics, Art).*

Much of later Western thought is a series of footnotes to Plato. — A.N. Whitehead.

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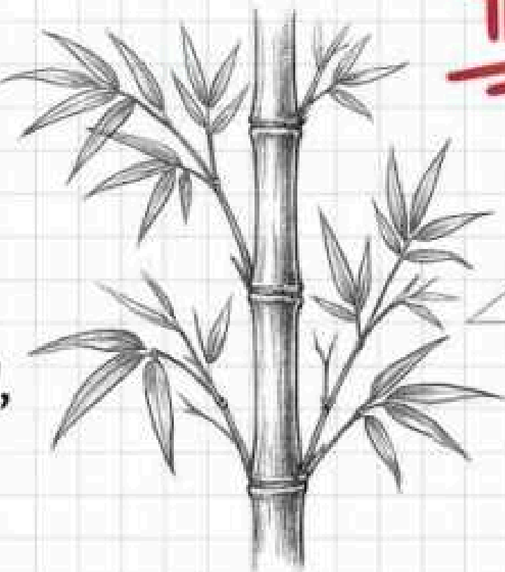
¶ 1.7



India

Upanishads, Buddha, Nyaya, Vedanta.

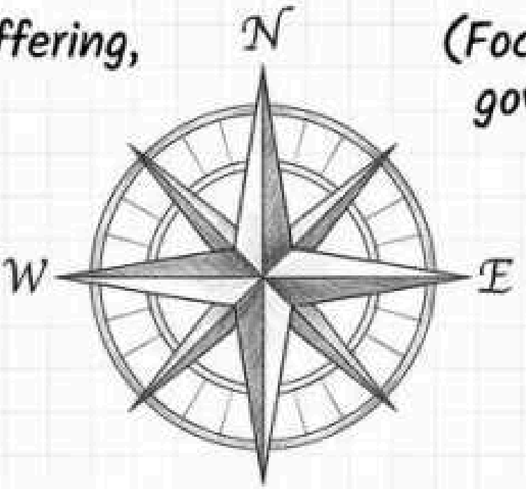
(Focus: Self, suffering, knowledge)

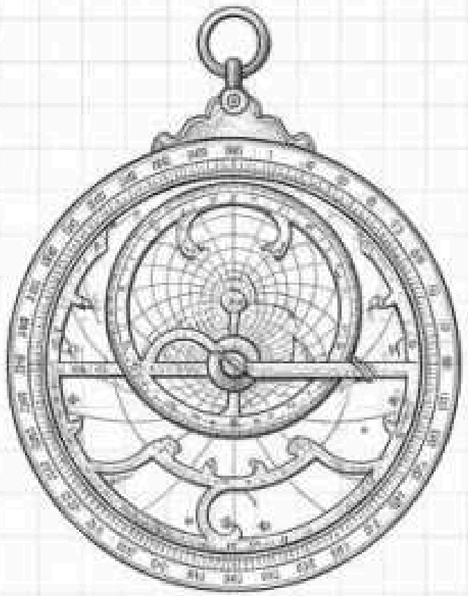


China

Confucius, Laozi, Mozi.

(Focus: Living well, governing justly)

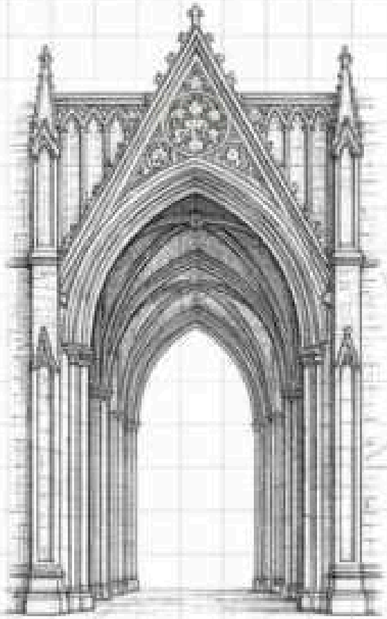




Islamic World

Avicenna, Averroes.

(Focus: Preserving/extending Greek thought)



Europe

Augustine, Aquinas.

(Focus: Joining philosophy to Christian theology)

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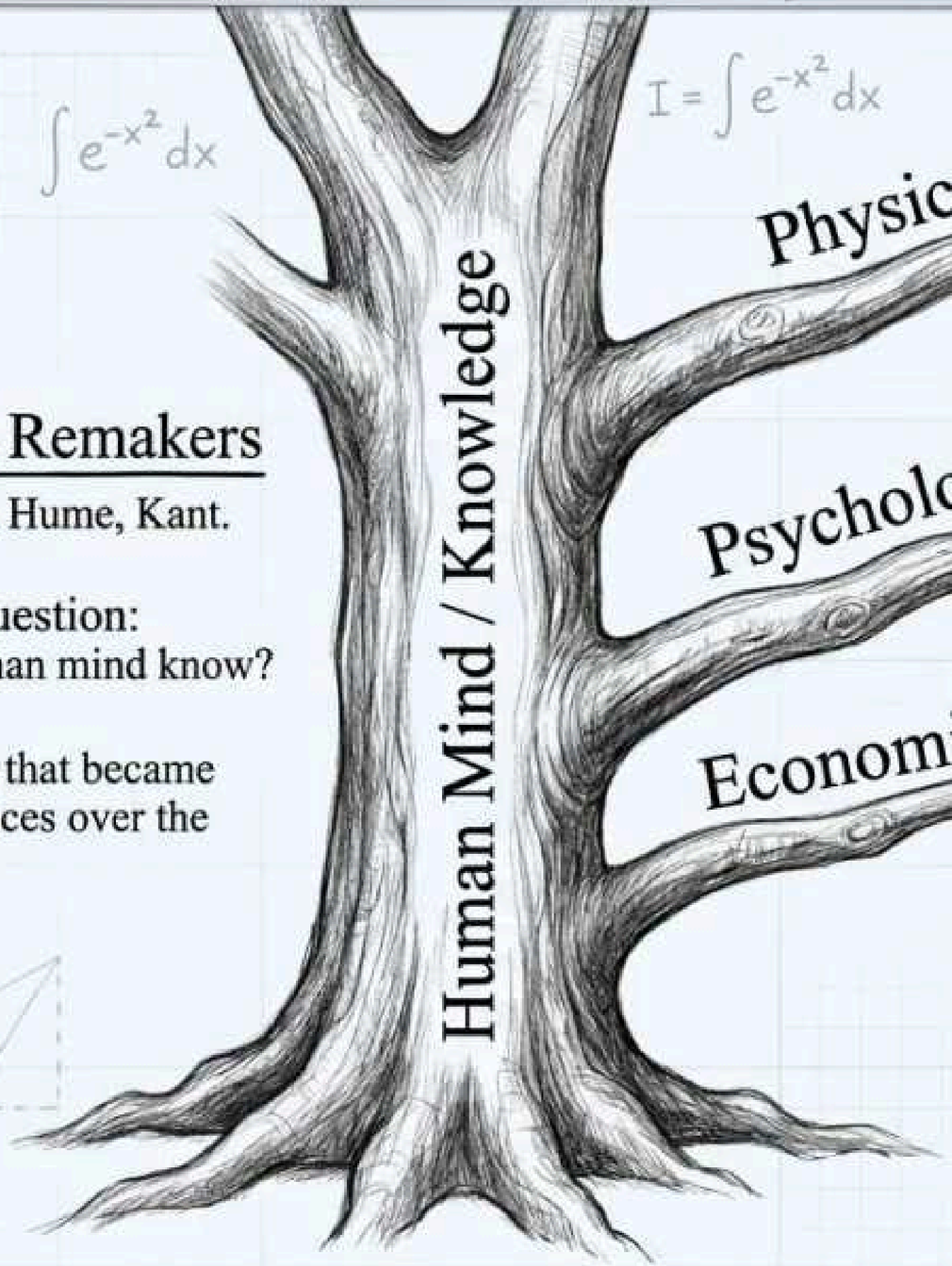
¶1.8

The Modern Remakers

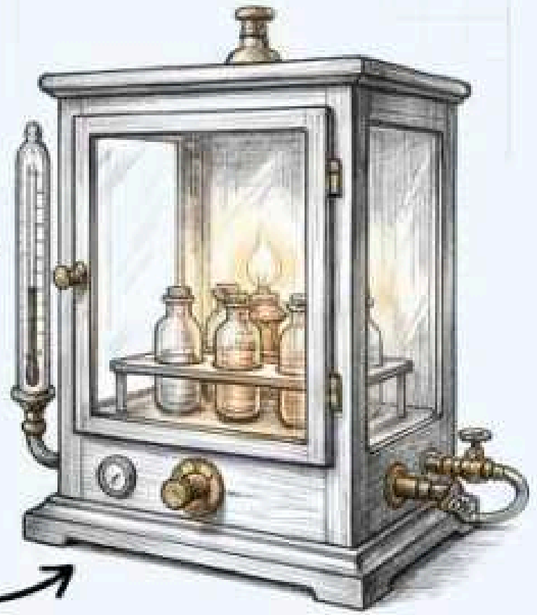
Descartes, Locke, Hume, Kant.

Core Modern Question:
What can the human mind know?

The Split: Fields that became independent sciences over the last 200 years.



Philosophy is where a question lives until we learn how to test it.



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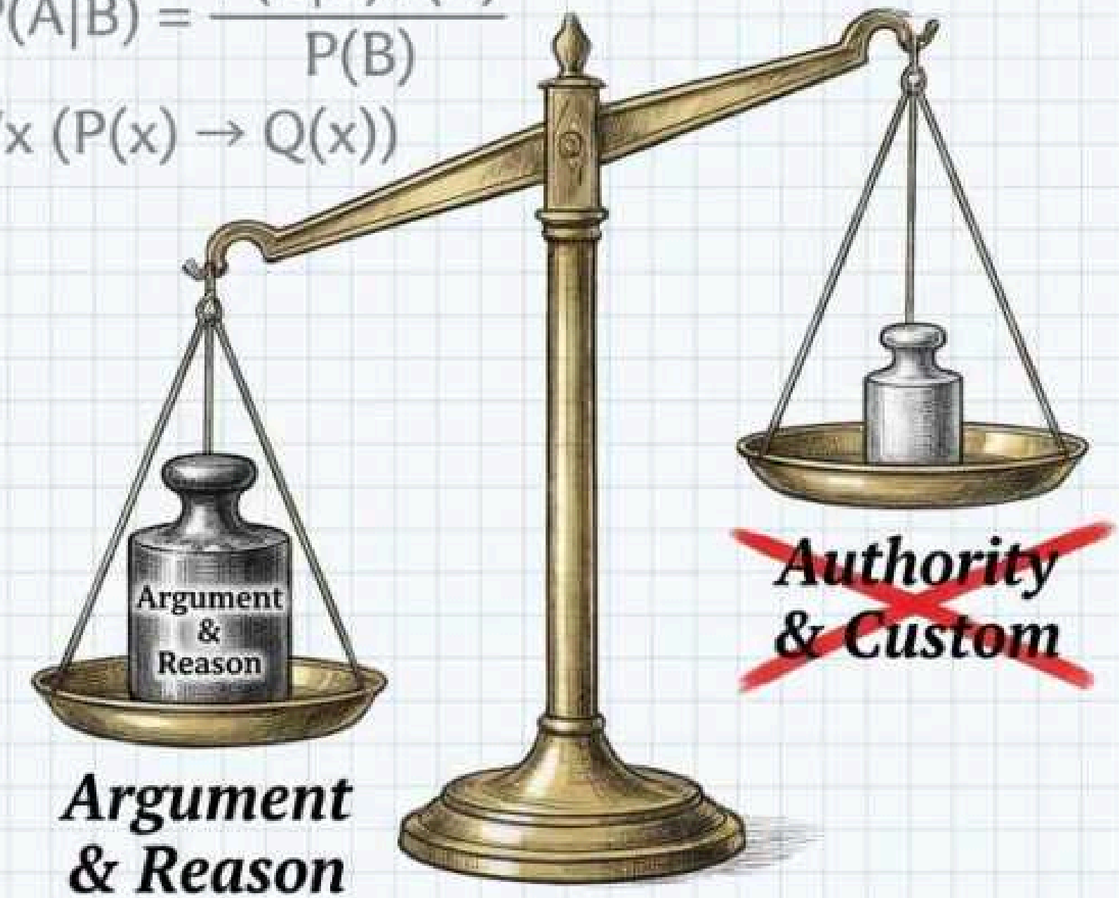
The careful, critical examination of our most basic beliefs.

¶ 1.9

$$P(A|B) = \frac{P(B|A)P(A)}{P(B)}$$

$$\forall x\,(P(x) \rightarrow Q(x))$$

$$A \rightarrow B,\ \neg B \vdash \neg A$$



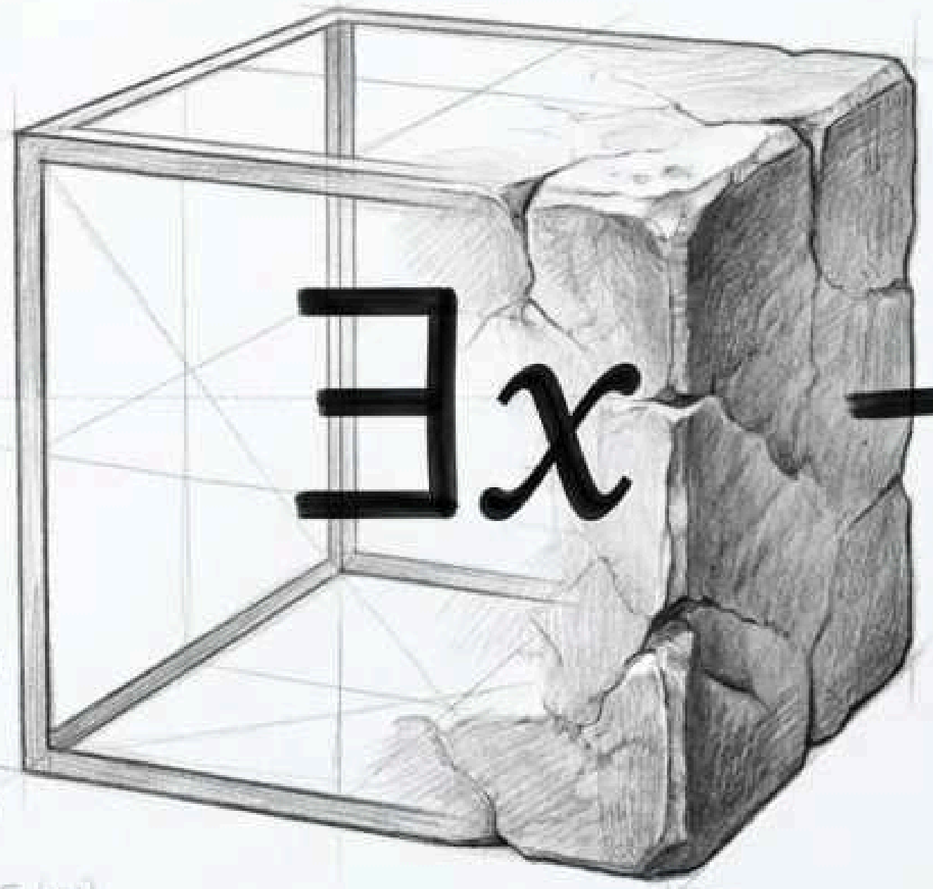


The Toolkit

1. Clear statement of a position.
2. Search for hidden assumptions.
3. Testing arguments against objections.

The Next Step: Lecture 2

¶ 1.10



Metaphysics.

The first and most basic branch: the study of what exists.