

History of Greek Philosophy

- Dark Era (1100-800BCE)
 - Archaic Era(800-480)
- Classical Era (510-333)
- Hellenistic Era(323-146)

Greek philosophy-Dark ages

- ▶ Dark ages: 1200 BCE-800 BCE. Lives in small groups and were illiterate. Later in the Dark Ages (between 950 and 750 BCE), Greeks relearned how to write once again, but this time instead of using the Linear B script used by the Mycenaean's, they adopted the alphabet used by the Phoenicians “innovating in a fundamental way by introducing vowels as letters. The Greek version of the alphabet eventually formed the base of the alphabet used for English today.” (Martin, 43).
- ▶ Class hierarchy was developed which lead towards today's socio political system.

Class Hierarchy in Greeks

- ▶ Prominent cities-Athens and Sparta.
- ▶ Aristocracy-Ruler class (War between Athens and Sparta)
- ▶ Free Man- Middle class or(Demos) Demo gage are called representative.
- ▶ Slaves -Non-Greeks who used to serve.
- ▶ In Sparta aristocracy was strong and Athen's demos or free men were strong.
- ▶ Tyrant called those who used to take from aristocratic and give to poor.
- ▶ Women's role and Status.

Religious Influence of Olympian Gods

- ▶ Polytheistic Society: Olympian era started from 776 considered end of dark ages.
- ▶ King God was Zeus said to have taken up residence in Olympia in 1200 whose opponent was Hadees God.
- ▶ Around 14 more Gods and Goddess were worshiped called Olympian Gods which also include 370 more Gods as well.
- ▶ Hera Goddess of marriage, Aphrodite Goddess of love, Aried for war, Apollo for light and knowledge(Pythagoras philosopher was his son), Poseidon for Ocean.

Homer's Philosophy

- ▶ Olympians' religious beliefs were the subject of Homer's philosophy which have attributes of human beings. Athen's youth has to learn Homer by heart as part of their education.
- ▶ Olympian Gods in Homer philosophy regarded as human beings. But super human beings with super human powers.
- ▶ Unlike other nations Olympian gods not claimed to create world rather acquired it.
- ▶ Gods can fight, feast, play, make music, drink deep and roar with laughter.
- ▶ Ended up with "Miletus philosophy" (c. 624 - 546 B.C)

Dark age Mythology towards- Natural Philosophy

Greek Philosophy

1. Pre-Socratic
2. Socratic
3. Hellenistic

Pre-Socratics

For instance:

1. Thales
2. Anaximander
3. Anaximenes
4. Pythagoras
5. Heraclitus

Pre-Socratic Philosophy

1. Founders
2. Challengers
3. Synthesizers

Greek philosophy-Archaic Age

- ▶ The next period of Greek History is described as **Archaic** (800 - 480 BCE). During this epoch Greek population recovered and organized politically in city-states (Polis) comprised of citizens, foreign residents, and slaves.
- ▶ May be from (700-480 BCE) or may be from (650-480 BCE).
- ▶ Includes only western Philosophy however it has influence of East including Persia, Egyptian, and Syrian influence.
- ▶ Phoenician invented the skill of writing later on through tales reached to Greek philosophy.
- ▶ Homer and Hesiod work include 800-650 BCE.



ALL THINGS FULL OF GOD.....THE FIRST
PHILOSOPHER.

Thales, pre-Socratic philosopher 624-546 BCE

Greek Archaic Philosophy-Thales

- ▶ **Thales of Miletus** (624 - 546 B.C.) philosopher, mathematician and astronomer from the **Greek** city of Miletus **Ionia** (modern-day Turkey).
- ▶ He was believed to be one of **Seven Sages(Mentors) of Greek and first philosopher** in the Western tradition.
- ▶ He was the **founder** of the Milesian School of natural philosophy, and teacher of another philosopher Anaximander. He has brought geometry into Greek from Egypt.
- ▶ Without denying the existence of the gods, Thales suggested that the First Cause of existence was water. This suggestion brought no backlash of charges of impiety because water, as a life-giving agency which encircled the earth, was already associated with the gods by Greek religion.

Thales Philosophy

- ▶ His most famous belief was his cosmological doctrine that water was the first principle.
- ▶ According to Aristotle, he thought that water is the original substance, out of which all others are formed. He claimed that earth rests on water.
- ▶ He was one of the first Western philosophers who attempted to find naturalistic explanations of the world (Naturalism or Materialism) without reference to supernatural or mythological reason.
- ▶ He is the one discovered and predicted Solar eclipse.
- ▶ Thales recognized a single **transcendental God** (Monism), who has neither beginning nor end, but who expresses himself through other gods (Polytheism)

Thales-Axiological Philosophy

- ▶ He had some common-sense **moral advice**: that we should expect the same support from our **children** that we give to our **parents**; that we should not let **talk** influence us against those we have come to **trust**; and that we should not do **ourselves** that for which we **blame others**.
- ▶ He believed that a **happy** man was one who was "**healthy** in body, **resourceful** in soul and of a readily **teachable** nature".
- ▶ Thales was known for his theoretical and practical understanding (and innovative use) of **geometry**, especially **triangles**.



- Anaximander (c. 610 - 546 B.C.) was an early Pre-Socratic philosopher a key figure in the Milesian School, student of Thales and teacher of Anaximenes and Pythagoras.

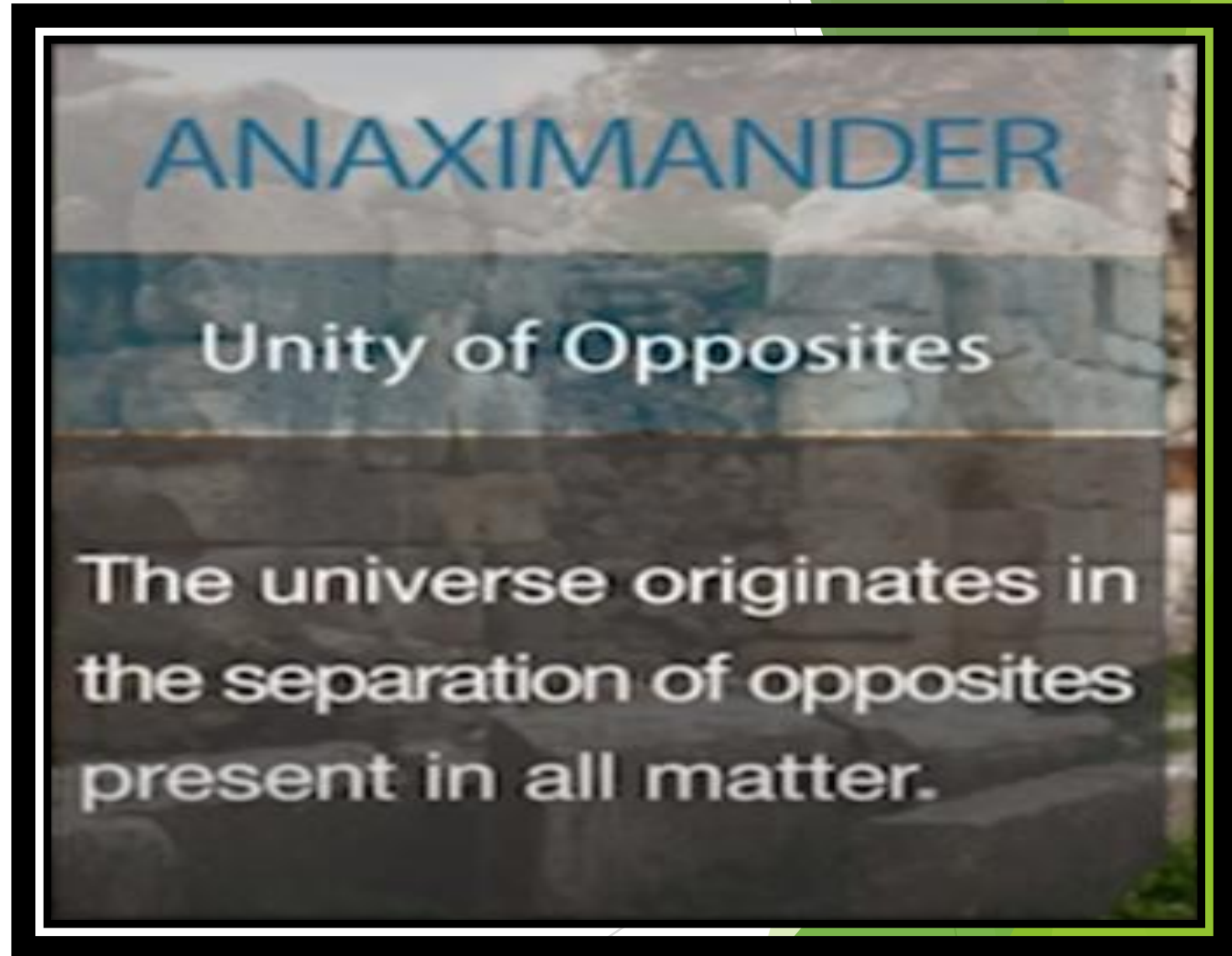
Theory of Apeiron

His is of the opinion that every thing came from a single substance but that is not water but the boundless (apeiron). This Substance is infinite, eternal, ageless and encompasses everything and all the world-our world is one of them.



Anaximander-Unity of Opposites

The universe, though, is a continual play of elements separating and combining. As suggested by Anaximander “Apeiron” - “the unlimited, boundless, infinite, or indefinite” (Baird, 10) - which was an eternal creative force of these opposites which creates the law of nature.



- ▶ Anaximander philosophy about cosmology is that there should be certain proportion of fire, air, and water and each element is balanced.
- ▶ If any one of them is primary than it would conquer other.
- ▶ His other interests were in **mathematics** (he explained some basic notions of **geometry**, **meteorology** (he attributed some phenomena, such as **thunder and lightning**, to the intervention of elements, rather than to **divine causes**, and he explained **rain** as a product of the humidity pumped up from Earth by the sun) and **geography** (he was probably the first to publish a **map of the world**).



He was the first scientist gave theory of evolution originally from water.

Anaximander was the first to consider the sun a huge mass that was far away from Earth.

Anaximander Justice philosophy both in cosmic and human life

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