

History of Greek Philosophy

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

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



Anaximenes
585–525 BCE

Anaximenes

- ▶ **Anaximenes** (546-c.528/5 B.C.E.) from the **Greek** last of Milesian School, student of Anaximander .
- ▶ He lived for at least part of his life under **Persian** rule, and so he may have witnessed the Ionian **rebellion** against Greek occupation. There is some evidence from **letters** that he was in communication with Pythagoras.
- ▶ Like other Milesian philosophers Anaximenes' main concern was to identify the single **source of all things** which is arguably taken by notion that **single element**, source of all things deemed to be **air**

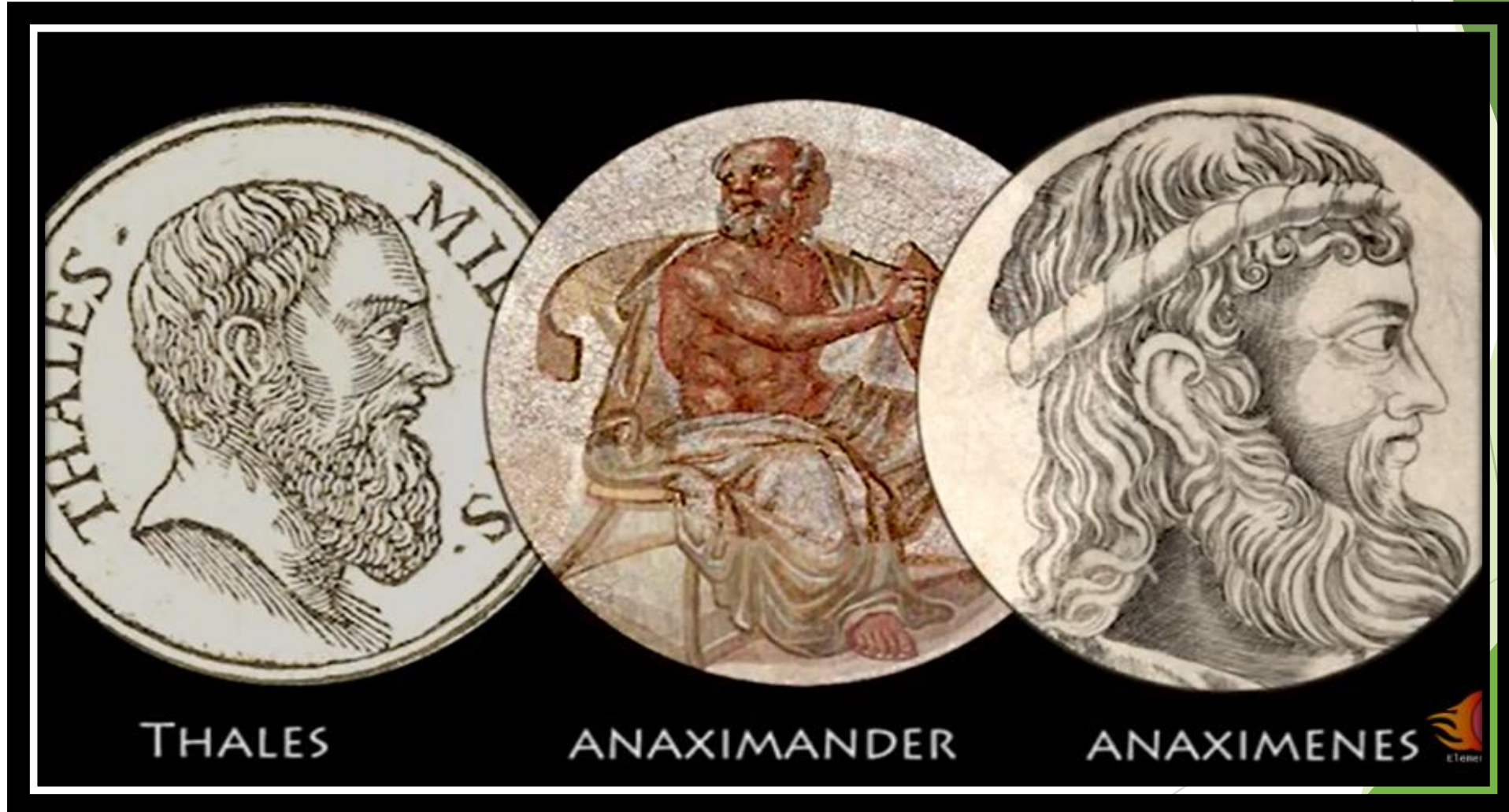
Anaximenes

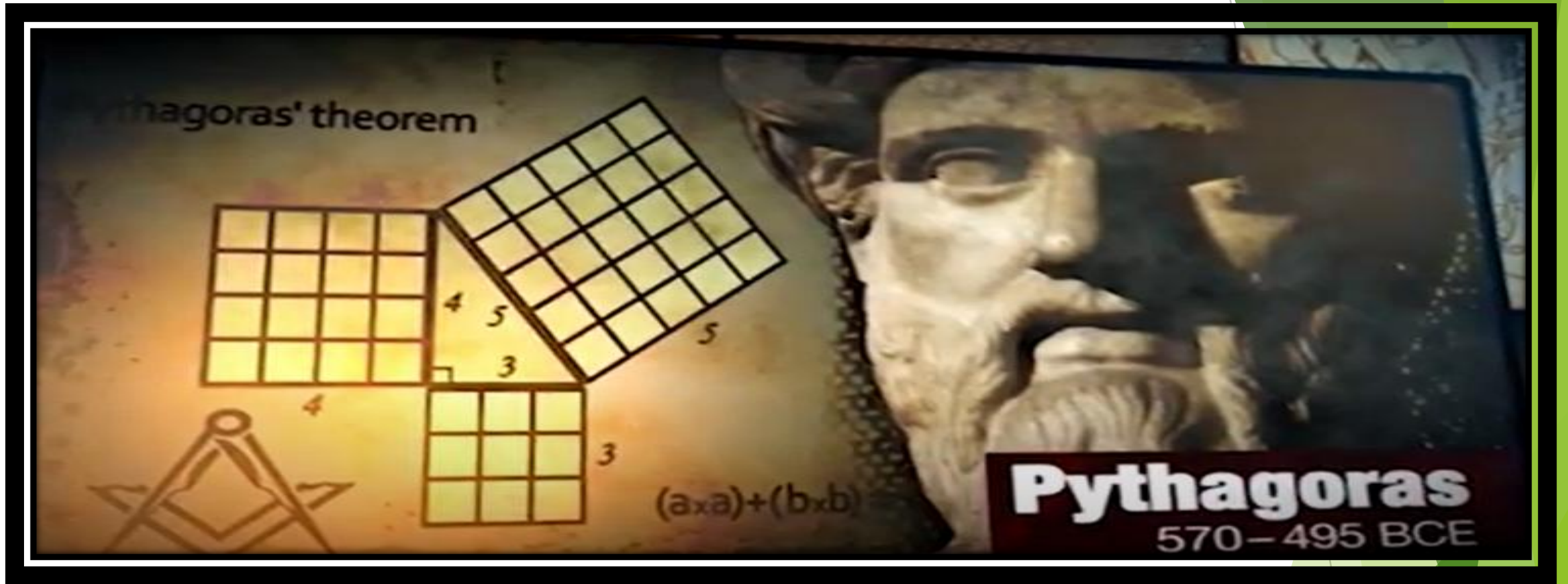
- ▶ Anaximenes (546-c.528/5 B.C.E.) could have had no direct philosophical contact with Anaximander. However, the conceptual link between them is undeniable. Like Anaximander, Anaximenes thought that there was something boundless that underlies all other things. Unlike Anaximander, Anaximenes made this boundless thing something definite—air.
- ▶ Anaximenes claimed that **earth** is a **broad disk**, floating on the circumambient air. The **sun** and **stars**, he held, were formed by the **same processes** of condensation and rarefaction.
- ▶ His claim about **natural phenomena: thunder and lightning** is result from wind breaking out of clouds; **rainbows** are the result of the rays of the sun falling on clouds; **earthquakes** are caused by the cracking of the earth when it dries out after being moistened by rains; **hail** is a result of frozen rainwater.

Anaximenes philosophical contribution

- ▶ Human beings are the micro version of cosmos. Body and soul both are made up of one substance that is air.
- ▶ Anaximenes agreed to unity of opposite law of Anaximander with the addition of continuum of change occurs as a result of war of opposites.
- ▶ Anaximenes's philosophy was centered on a theory of change through ongoing cycles, defined by the movement of air.
- ▶ He was the first philosopher to attempt a scientific explanation of rainbows, and the only one to do so until Aristotle. He described them as a reflection of sunlight off of clouds, and he theorized that the various colors were caused by an interaction of light and darknes

The first western philosophers of Miletus school.





Pythagoras was born on the Greek island of Samos, in the eastern Aegean Sea off the coast of Turkey, some time between 580 and 572 B.C.

Pythagoras

- ▶ According to some myths he was the son of God Apolo, And he had the ability to travel through time.
- ▶ According to some reports, as a young man he met Thales, and remained student of Anaximander who was the student of Thales.
- ▶ He was the first who has had used word philosopher for himself. And the first philosopher to established his own academy but this academy and school was suppressed because of political situations in Greece.
- ▶ He was one of the first to think that the Earth was round, that all planets have an axis, and that all the planets travel around one central point He also believed that the Moon was another planet that he called a “counter-Earth”.
- ▶ He also believed in the "musica universals" (or the "harmony of the spheres"), the idea that the planets and stars moved according to mathematical equations, which corresponded to musical notes and thus produced a kind of music.

- ▶ Pythagoras saw his religious and scientific views as inseparably **interconnected**. He believed in **transmigration of the soul** and its **reincarnation** again and again after death into the bodies of humans, animals or vegetables until it became **moral**.
- ▶ He was one of the first to propose that the **thought processes** and the **soul** were located in the brain and not the **heart**.
- ▶ He believed that the **number system** (and therefore the universe system) was based on the sum of the numbers one to four (i.e. **ten**), and that **odd numbers** were **masculine** and **even number** were **feminine**.

Heracclitus
535–475 BCE

Heraclitus

- ▶ Heraclitus is from Elae school of Philosophy (which would be 504 - 501 B.C.), but the dates of birth and death are guesswork. He was born to an aristocratic family. His father was a powerful figure in Greek.
- ▶ Known as the Dark, Obscure and Riddler.
- ▶ As a youth, he was a **prodigious intellect**, and he claimed to have **taught himself** everything he knew by a process of **self-questioning**.
- ▶ He was sometimes known as "**the Obscure**" (or "the Dark") for the **deliberate difficulty** and unclearness of his teachings. He was also known as the "**Weeping Philosopher**", and it is speculated that he was prone to **melancholia** or **depression**, which prevented him from finishing some of his works.

Heraclitus Natural Philosophy

- ▶ Heraclitus is recorded as having written a single book, "*On Nature*", divided into three discourses, one on the universe, another on politics and a third on theology.
- ▶ Just like Thales, Anaximenes and Anaximander he is the opinion of one initial substance which is Fire.
- ▶ Heraclitus believed that the world is not to be identified with any particular substance, but rather consists of a law-like interchange of elements, an ongoing process governed by a law of perpetual change, or Logos, which he symbolized by fire
- ▶ He uses the law of monistic substance in teleological, cosmological and deontological field as good and bad human beings.

Logos in Heraclitus writing

- Heraclitus believed the logos as law of nature and order of knowledge.
- He uses the word God and Logos interchangeably as cause and function of this world.
- He said this teleological Logos always holds and human always unable to understand.

HERACLITUS

Logos

The writing of Heraclitus was the first place where the term *Logos* was given special attention in ancient Greek philosophy

Heraclitus Dialectics

- ▶ He is known as father of Dialectics.
- ▶ He says ‘Everything flows’. Motion is the existence of things.
- ▶ Ever newer water flows on those who step into the same river.
- ▶ Everything changes and nothing remains still, you cannot step twice in the same stream. We both step and do not step in the same rivers. We are and we are not. No man ever step in the same river twice.



- ▶ Heraclitus recognized a law like **flux of elements**, with fire changing into water and then into earth, and earth changing into water and then into fire. While parts of the world are being **consumed** by fire at any given time, the whole **remains**. Heraclitus does, to be sure, make **paradoxical statements**, but his views are no more **self-contradictor**.
- ▶ He was one of the first philosophers to make human values a central concern. He viewed SOUL as fiery in nature, generated out of other substances, just as fire is, but limitless in dimension. Thus, **drunkenness**, for example, damages the soul by causing it to be **moist**, while a **virtuous life** keeps the soul dry and intelligent.

The Challengers





- ▶ He was a poet and religious thinker. Challenged Greek religious fatalism, immorality of Gods and Goddess especially Homer and Hesiod.
- ▶ Xenophanes was the first Greek thinker to offer a complex and at least partially systematic account of the divine nature. He identified his 'one greatest god' with the entire physical universe—often termed 'the whole' or 'all things'.
- ▶ Considered the founder of Skepticism. Difference between opinion and knowledge. You can claim you know but it may be your opinion.
- ▶ Identified as the founder of Eleatic philosophy and primarily on the testimony of Aristotle, whose views Xenophanes also anticipated.



- ▶ Parmenides of Elea (515 - 450 B.C.) was an early Pre-Socratic Greek philosopher and founder and chief representative of the Eleatic School of ancient Greek philosophy.
- ▶ He is sometimes referred to as father of Metaphysics. Likewise, the phenomena of movement and are simply appearances of the real static, eternal reality. He further asserted that the truth cannot be known through sensory perception, only through pure reason ("Logos").
- ▶ "What-is-not" does not exist. Since anything that comes into being must arise out of "what-is-not", objects cannot come into being. Likewise, they cannot pass away, because in order to do so they would have to enter the realm of "what-is-not"

Non-being has
no properties

Reality is like
a sphere

Examined being
and non-being



Non-being:
What is not

PARMENIDES'
METAPHYSICS



Being:
What is

Since "what is not" does not exist there can be no interaction and no change.



"You could not know what is not, nor can you say what cannot be thought cannot exist. Since we cannot think of nothing, therefore there can be no void or vacuum."

Parmenides

LOGIC

The principle of
non-contradiction

Contradictory statements
cannot be true in the same
sense at the same time, e.g.
the two propositions:
"A is A" and "A is not A"

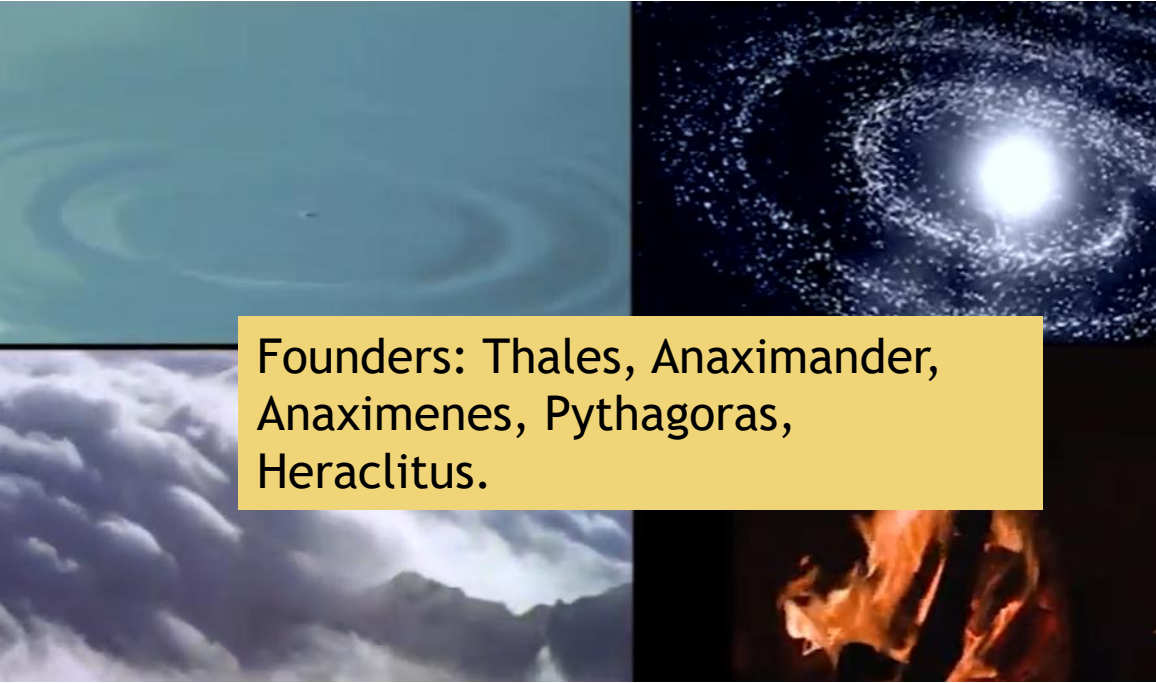
Parmenides argued that the every-day perception of the reality of the physical world is mistaken, and that the reality of the world is "the One", an unchanging, ingenerated, indestructible whole.



- ▶ Empedocles (pronounced em-PED-o-clees) was born around 490 B.C. or 492 B.C. in Sicily. Empedocles was very familiar with the work of the Eleatic School and the Pythagoreans, and particularly of Parmenides. Like Pythagoras, Empedocles believed in the transmigration of the soul.
- ▶ He is perhaps best known as the originator of the Cosmo genic theory of the four classical elements of the ancient world is combination of : earth, air, fire and water, which became the standard dogma for much of the next two thousand years. He is also credited with several prescient ideas in physics which have since proved quite prophetic.

Empedocles

- ▶ He believed that **wise people**, who have learned the **secret of life**, are next to the divine and that their souls, free from the **cycle of reincarnations**, are able to **rest in happiness** for eternity.
- ▶ Empedocles held that change, including what we call coming into existence and death, is only the mixture and separation of the four indestructible and unchangeable elements (or "roots" called earth, air, fire and water).
- ▶ He posited two divine powers which are "Love" and "Strife", which pervade the universe and act as the moving powers which bring about these (love) mixtures and (Strif) separations.



Founders: Thales, Anaximander, Anaximenes, Pythagoras, Heraclitus.

Pre-Socratic Philosophy

1. Founders
2. Challengers
3. Synthesizers

Challengers: Xenophanes, Parmenides.



The Synthesizers

1. Empedocles
2. Anaxagoras
3. Leucippus
4. Democritus

Ideas/Contributions

- ▶ Asked what universe is made of (Thales: water; Heraclitus: fire). Heraclitus: "Strife is the father of all." Anaxagoras: "There is a portion of everything in everything" -- earliest theory of infinite divisibility. Each helped to shape the beginning of the scientific method: i.e., by gathering facts, developing and testing an hypothesis.
- ▶ Monistic Philosophy of first cause.
- ▶ Natural Philosophy based on natural reasons of creation and development.