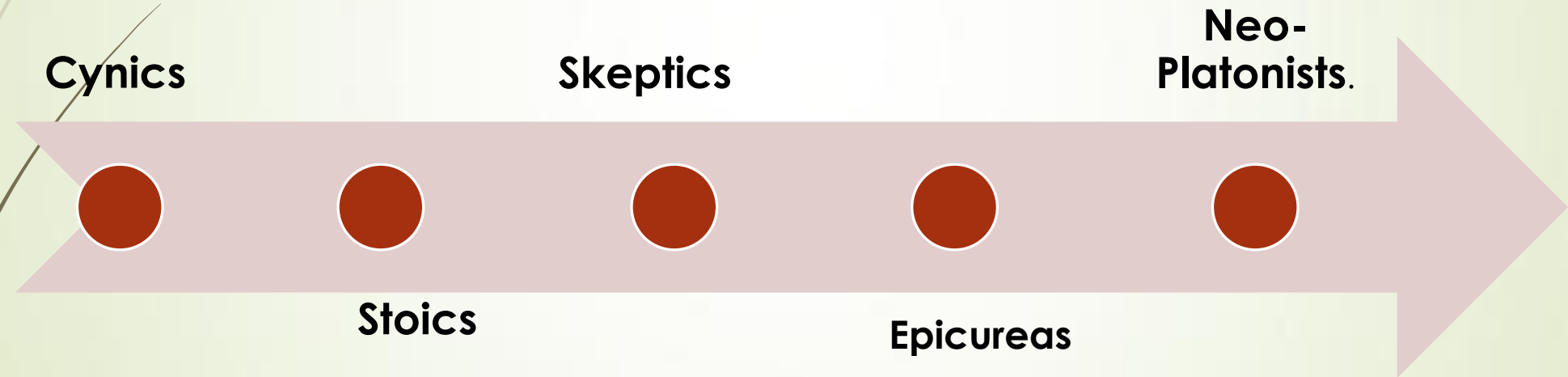


History of Greek Philosophy

- Dark Era (1100-800BCE)
- Archaic Era (800-480)
- Classical Era (510-333)
- **Hellenistic Era(323-146/ 300 200 BCE)**

Five Philosophies of Hellenistic Era



Epicureanism

- This school derives its name from its founder Epicurus, who founded his school on the outskirts of Athens and famously called it as the Garden (307 BC).
- He took idea of pleasure from a Socratic student named Aristippus “**The highest good is pleasure and greatest evil is pain**”. He taught that the **greatest good** is to seek **modest pleasures** in order to attain a state of tranquility, **freedom from fear** ("ataraxia") and **absence from bodily pain** ("aponia"). This combination of states is held to constitute **happiness**. Epicureans were known as garden philosophers.
- “**Stranger here you will live well, here pleasure is the highest good**”

Epicurus atomism or materialism

- Epicurus combined the theory of Aristippus and Democritus before him, Epicurus was an Atomist, believing that all matter, souls and **gods** are all comprised of **atoms**, and even **thoughts** are merely atoms.
- Challenged Plato's theory of Ideas and forms and gave Democritus' theory of materialism and proved wrong all superstitious beliefs. All natural things are material even gods and have no interest in human life and their affairs.
- Knowledge can relieve from fear of gods and death.

PURPOSE OF LIFE AND ETHICS

- Epicureanism teaches that the **greatest good** is to seek **modest pleasures** in order to attain a state of **tranquility, freedom from fear** ("ataraxia") and **absence from bodily pain** ("aponia").
- Virtue is pleasure, virtue is good which includes, beautiful thinking, beautiful reading, beautiful listening and beautiful sights.
- Pleasure must be balanced with its side effect with self-control and temperance.
- Pleasure is no sensual, friendship, art and culture are also pleasurable acts.
- Epicurus discourage marriage as it can affect pleasure of life through burdens of family and children. "Living modestly gaining knowledge provides pleasure, a state of tranquility and absence from bodily pain is pure happiness".

Social contract theory

- Emphasizes on minimizing harm and maximizing happiness for oneself and others/society.
- Later philosopher exaggerated this idea with live and enjoy especially during roman era and converted in Latin as enjoy pleasure of life.
- Epicurus are called social contract theorist.
- Jean Jacques Rousseau (1712-1778) gave social contract theory.
- In order to minimize harm and maximize happiness we should make a social contract or agreement which lay down rights under law.

Epicureanism and Religion

- Epicureanism emphasizes the **neutrality** of the gods and their **non-interference** with human lives, although it did not **deny** the existence of gods, despite some tendencies towards Atheism.
- It conceived of the gods as blissful, immortal, yet **material**, beings made of **atoms**, inhabiting the **empty spaces** between worlds in the vastness of infinite space, **too far away** from the earth to have any interest in what man was doing. Rejects life after death with no fear of death.
- **Freedom from Fear:** According to this school of thought, all people live in a constant state of irrational fear, anxiety & superstition and these factors keep humans in a state of pain.

Problem of evil

Famous **argument against** the existence of an **all-powerful** and providential God or gods. It can be stated:

If God is willing to prevent evil, but is not able to, then He is **not omnipotent (Al-Power full)**

If He is able, but not willing, then He is **malevolent (Mean)**

If He is both able and willing, then why is there **such a thing as evil.**

If He is neither able nor willing, then **why call Him God** at all?

Philosophical impacts

- Epicurus's philosophy combines a physics based on an atomistic materialism with a rational hedonistic ethics that emphasizes moderation of desires and cultivation of friendships.
- His world-view is an optimistic one that stresses that philosophy can liberate one from fears of death and the supernatural, and can teach us how to find happiness in almost any situation.
- His practical insights into human psychology, as well as his science-friendly world-view, gives Epicureanism great contemporary significance as well as a venerable role in the intellectual development of Western Civilization.

Cynics Philosophy

- **Definition of cynic** : a person who has negative opinions about other people and about the things people do; especially : a person who believes that people are selfish and are only interested in helping themselves.
- Cynic philosopher believe to live their own life and do not care what people think, say and live.
- Fulfill your own need and care for your own self.
- Cynics says “ Philosophy is to care for nothing”.
- Live your own life with no care of conventional values and norms.

Cynics Philosopher-Antisthenes

- Cynicism is not one person's philosophy but of many philosophers have contributed:
- Antisthenes was the earliest philosopher of cynic school who was the student of Socrates, credited with a number of upsetting sayings that reflect his defiant attitude towards social convention, such as "I would rather go mad than feel pleasure."
- Cynic philosophers taught through deliberately shocking speech and action, thereby conveying their condemnation of traditional social values such as wealth, reputation, pleasure, property, family and duties.

Diogenes- the Dog

- Diogenes acquired the nickname “the Dog”, and in fact the name “cynicism” itself derives from the Greek word for “dog”.
- A running theme in Diogenes’ philosophy was contempt for luxury. He said, **“things of great value were often sold for nothing, and things worth nothing sold for a great price.”**
- **“Refraining from pleasure is pleasurable”.**
- **“Love of money is the mother of city of evils”**
- He used to beg for livelihood. Once criticized and said **“All things belongs to gods, The wise are friends of gods, friends share everything: hence all things belongs to wise”**

Philosophical Impacts

- Cynics were noted for their bold speech and ‘shameless’ behavior.
- Their approach is against social conventions and values but inspired by spiritual thought in Hindu and Christian culture.
- Nietzsche was influenced by this philosophy he regards the cynic philosopher by saying “ It is the highest stage one can reached on earth”. Muslim Mysticism was influenced by cynic philosophy to leave material world in order to get closer to god.
- In contrast, the good life is lived according to nature, and it is a life of *self-sufficiency*. Self-sufficiency can be realized through training (*ascesis*).... This achievement is described as *apatheia*, ‘indifference to suffering.’