

History of Greek Philosophy

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

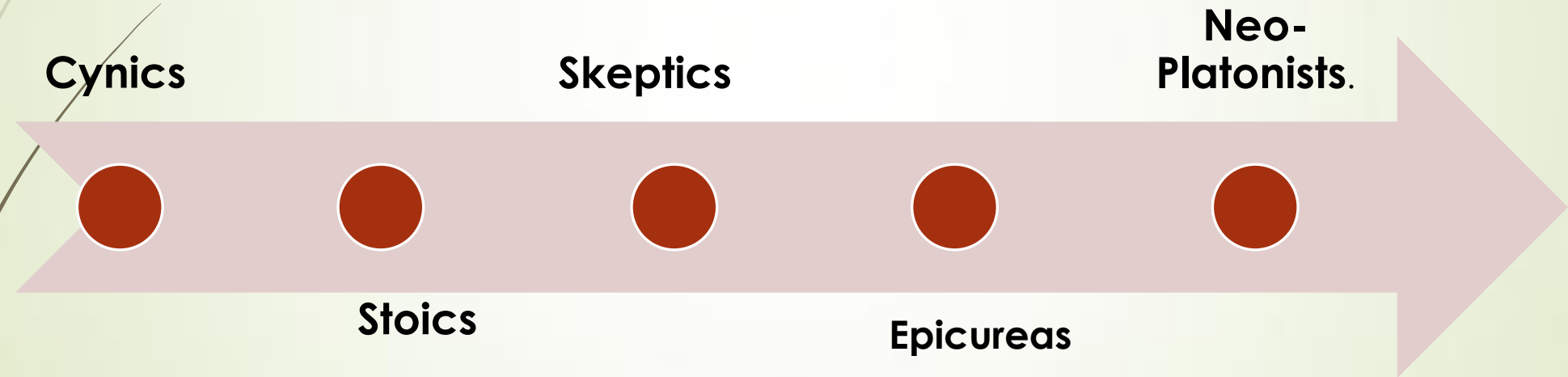
Journey from Pre-classical, Classical to Hellenistic

- The Greek philosophy began as speculation into the nature of the cosmos or universe (Meta Physics).
- The early philosophers, in the Pre-Socratic era, like Sophists, Democritus, Pythagoras and others made bold speculations about the origins and nature of the universe.
- With the advent of Socrates, Plato, and Aristotle, the focus of philosophy also shifted towards morality, virtues and ethics.

HELLINISTIC PHILOSOPHY

- Hellenistic philosophy is a name for a variety of philosophical options which flourished in the period from the life of Alexander.
- Mysticism and Indian religions and Persian culture has in influenced this era of philosophy.
- Persian and India culture's close interaction.
- Political, social and moral environment no longer sustained the creative impulses in philosophical thought and this gave rise to Hellenistic Age or post-Aristotelian philosophy.
- A common element of the philosophers in Hellenistic age was that the focus of Philosophy was shifting from general understanding of the universe to individual life and its perception as an “art of life”. Philosophy ends up being a driver of life and a source of relief, a healing art, a way to cope with a hostile world.

Five Philosophies of Hellenistic Era



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.’

Stoic Phiosophy

- Stoic is a person who can endure pain or hardship without showing their feelings or complaining. Philosophy founder of Zeno of Citium (rich trader).
- Stoicism held that the cosmos is governed by an overarching fatalistic law, and we best achieve happiness when we resign ourselves to fate.
- **Four Cardinal virtues philosophy.**
 1. **Wisdom**: Ability to deal complicated situation in calm manner.
 2. **Temperance**: Exercise of self- displine and moderation.
 3. **Justice**: Treating others with fairness even when they have done wrong.
 4. **Courage**: Not to face extra ordinary events but to face daily challenges.

Five Key principles of Stoicism

1. Live everyday as we have last.

2. Food is the best test of self-control.(God has given food to human being to survive not for pleasure) as Socrates said we should eat to live rather than live to eat.

3. Failure is natural regret is foolish. Learn from obstacles of life.

4. Focus on the small things: Do not under estimate small things and place them constantly.

5. Throw away vanity or pride.

Stoics epistemology

Man by birth is blank and take knowledge through senses and reason knowledge has been attained.

Knowledge is attained with propositional logic of And, Or, If, Then as operating words into it.

Conditional (if-then): "*If it is day, then it is light.*"

*Conjunction (and): "It is day *and* it is light."

*Disjunction (or): "It is day *or* it is night"

*Negation (not): "It is *not* day"

Propositional logic of stoics

- . If it is raining outside “than” I shall not go out for walk.
- . It is raining this afternoon
- . Therefore I shall not go out for walk.
- . If “p” than “q”
- . “p”
- . Therefore “q”

Physics: God and Fate

- Nature is everything-man is nature-nature is man-One in all-All in one.
- One soul is working in all human, animal, living and dead.
- Nature is two types: Active Passive
- Active nature is Mind....Spirit, Soul.
- Passive nature is Matter....Body.
- Man has will power-Nature also has will power.
- Man has reason-Nature has reason.
- Everything which man has can be found in Nature

Stoics substance theory

- Substance. Primary formless matter...ready for any use.
- Quality: Substance can be change if it has a quality which is called form by Aristotle. Organization of matter. fate, reason, logos acts on passive matter.
- Disposition: Particular characteristics present in object size, shape, color, action and posture.
- Relative disposition: Characteristics related to other things like that. Position within time and space relative to other objects.
- Everything is working on fate or laws of nature which they name it as fire. Every soul will join this fate of fire.

Eastern philosophy in Stoicism

In many respects, it is **similar** to the ethical teaching of **Siddhartha Gautama or Buddhism**, which is grounded in the **four noble truths**:

- 1) All life has **suffering**;
- 2) Suffering is rooted in **passion** and desire.
- 3) Happiness is **freedom** from the passions
- 4) **Moral restraint** and **self-discipline** is the means by which one becomes free from suffering.

Stoics philosophical Summary

- Cosmopolitan philosophy “ I am not Athenian but citizen of the world”. Self dispelling and wisdom.
- Against slavery believe in human equality as nature has created them equal. Wealth, status, class has no importance everyone can be tagged as good and bad through deeds. Every human being is equal and must be treated equal.
- Roman philosophy is based on stoicism e.g: cicero, Epictetus, Cato, Marcus Aurelius and Seneca.
- Influenced Christian and Muslim philosophy as well.
- Humanity is very important as part of nature.
- Humanism philosophy is influenced by stoicism.