

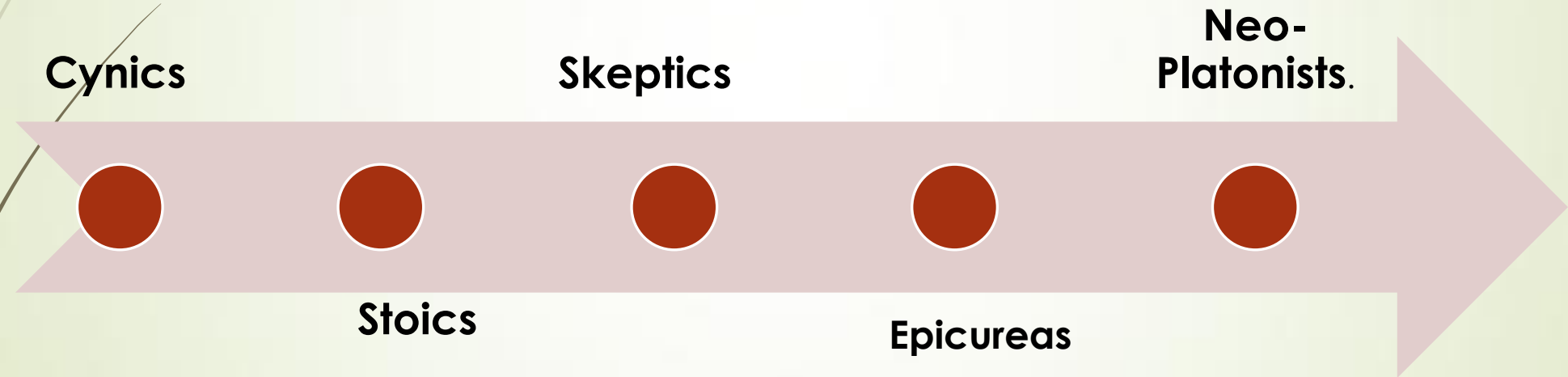
History of Greek Philosophy

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

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



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.’

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.

Skepticism

The **term** is derived from the Greek verb "**skeptomai**" (which means "to look carefully, to reflect").

Full definition of Skepticism

An attitude of doubt towards any object.

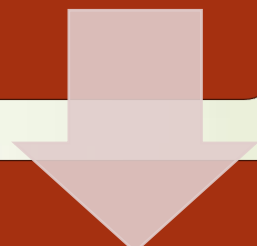
A doctrine that “true knowledge or knowledge to a particular area is uncertain”. There is no absolute justification exists.

Method of suspending judgment, systematic doubt, or criticism characteristics of skeptics .

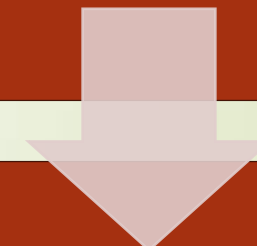
“Honey is sweet” skeptic says “Honey appears sweet” as its highly probable not absolutely certain.

Pyrrho as first skeptic philosopher

Born in 360 BCE was in Alexander's army and travelled India where he met an Indian wise man and through discussion he found skeptical ideas in thinking. But other says that his sufficient taste of travel gave him skeptical thought.



Most of philosophical thoughts are delivered by the name of Pyrrho was described by his student Timon .After the death of Plato. Academy divided in to two parts: Old (Zenucrites) and New. Plato's new academy was headed by Pyrrho and Timon which was more interested in dialogues of Socrates and Plato



He was impressed by Democritus atomic theory that perceptible qualities of sweetness and colors are conventional in reality there is nothing but atoms envoy. He emphasized to live without firm belief but on the bases of knowledge and understanding.

Arcesilaus and Carneades

- **Arcesilaus** (c. 316 - 241 B.C.) became head of Plato's **Academy** in Athens, and he strongly changed the Academy's emphasis from Platonism to Skepticism, and it remained the center of "**Academic Skepticism**" for the next two centuries.
- **Carneades** (c. 214 - 129 B.C.), who became the fourth Academy scholar in succession after Arcesilaus in 155 B.C., and who famously claimed that "Nothing can be known, not even this".

Reality of truth

- The **main principle** of Pyrrho's thought can be expressed by the **truth** of things in their own nature. He argued that we only know how things **appear** to us, but are ignorant of their **inner substance**, especially as the same thing can appear **differently** to different people. So, it is therefore **impossible** to know which opinion is **right** (the diversity of opinion among the wise, as well as among the vulgar, proves this). Thus, if a **contradiction** may be advanced against every statement with **equal justification** and no assertion can be known to be **better** than another, it is necessary to completely **suspend judgment** by asserting **nothing definite** and never making any **positive statements** on any subject, however **trivial(less important)**.

Skeptic ethics

- **“Practical skepticism”** To Ethics and to life in general, only proper attitude is **"ataraxia"** (which can be translated as "inner peace" or "freedom from worry" or "apathy"), which became the **ultimate goal** of the early **Skeptikoi**. Since **nothing can be known**, nothing can be in itself either **good** or **evil**, and it is only opinion, custom and law which makes it appear so.
- If there is **no good reason** to prefer one **course of action** to another, then the **absence of all activity** should be the ideal of the sage. In this apathy, he will renounce all **desires** (which are based on the untenable **opinion** that one thing is better than another), and will live in undisturbed **tranquility** of the soul, free from all **delusions**. **Unhappiness** is the result of not attaining what one desires (or of losing it, once attained); thus, the wise person, being free from desires, is also **free from unhappiness**

Skeptic troops of doubt

- 1. Dissent** - The uncertainty of the rules of common life, and of the opinions of philosophers.(Nothing is true).
- 2. Progress ad infinitum** - All proof requires some further proof (and so on, to infinity) called as regress fallacy as well.
- 3. Relation** - All things are changed as their relations become changed, or as we look upon them from different points of view.
- 4. Assumption** - The truth asserted is merely a hypothesis or assumption.
- 5. Circularity** - The truth asserted involves spiteful circle. "A" is true because "B" is true. "B" is true because "A" is true.

Descartes established a **methodological skepticism** in which he **rejected** any idea that can be **doubted**, and then attempted to re-establish it in order to acquire a firm foundation for **genuine knowledge**. His famous formulation is sometimes stated as "**Dubito, ergo cogito, ergo sum**" ("I doubt, therefore I think, therefore I am").

David Hume empiricism based on Skepticism

David Hume, one of the British Empiricists, claimed that "A wise man, therefore, **proportions** his belief to the evidence", which provided the basis for the maxim of **Marcello Truzzi** (1935 - 2003) that "**Extraordinary claims** require **extraordinary proof**", much later in the 20th Century. Hume argued that even the most **basic beliefs** about the **natural world**, or even in the existence of the **self**, cannot be conclusively established by **reason**, but we accept them anyway because of their basis in **instinct** and **custom**.

Criticisms of Skepticism

- Some **critics** have suggested that just because something cannot be **proven** (e.g. that we are not dreaming, or that sense perception or memory is not reliable), does not necessarily mean that it is not **known** or that there is no **justification** in believing it. Descartes wanted **absolutely certain knowledge**, but that is not the only possibility, and some would argue that **well-justified** knowledge is sufficient.
- Others have argued that Skepticism turns its own claims on their heads because a skeptic cannot be certain that Skepticism is true. **Thomas Reid** (1710 - 1796), founder of the **Scottish School of Common Sense**, argued that, if perception and the other cognitive processes are not reliable, then the faculty of **reasoning** which the skeptic uses is also bound to be **unreliable too**. So, **either** the skeptic is **right**, in which case we cannot trust our ability to reason and therefore **cannot trust** the skeptic's conclusion; **or** the skeptic is **wrong**, in which case again we **cannot trust** the skeptic's conclusion.

Skeptic Philosophy summary

- Skepticism is an appeal to many unphilosophical minds. All philosophers pretend to know which is in fact not possible.
- Skepticism is lazy man consolation, it shows ignorant to be as wise as reputed man of learning.
- Skepticism is not merely doubt but dogmatic doubt. Man of science says “I think it is so and so but I am not sure”. Man of intellectual curiosity says “I don’t know how it is, but I hope to find out”.
- The philosophical skeptic says “Nobody knows, and nobody ever can know” which is called dogmatic doubt.

Neo-Platonism Philosophy

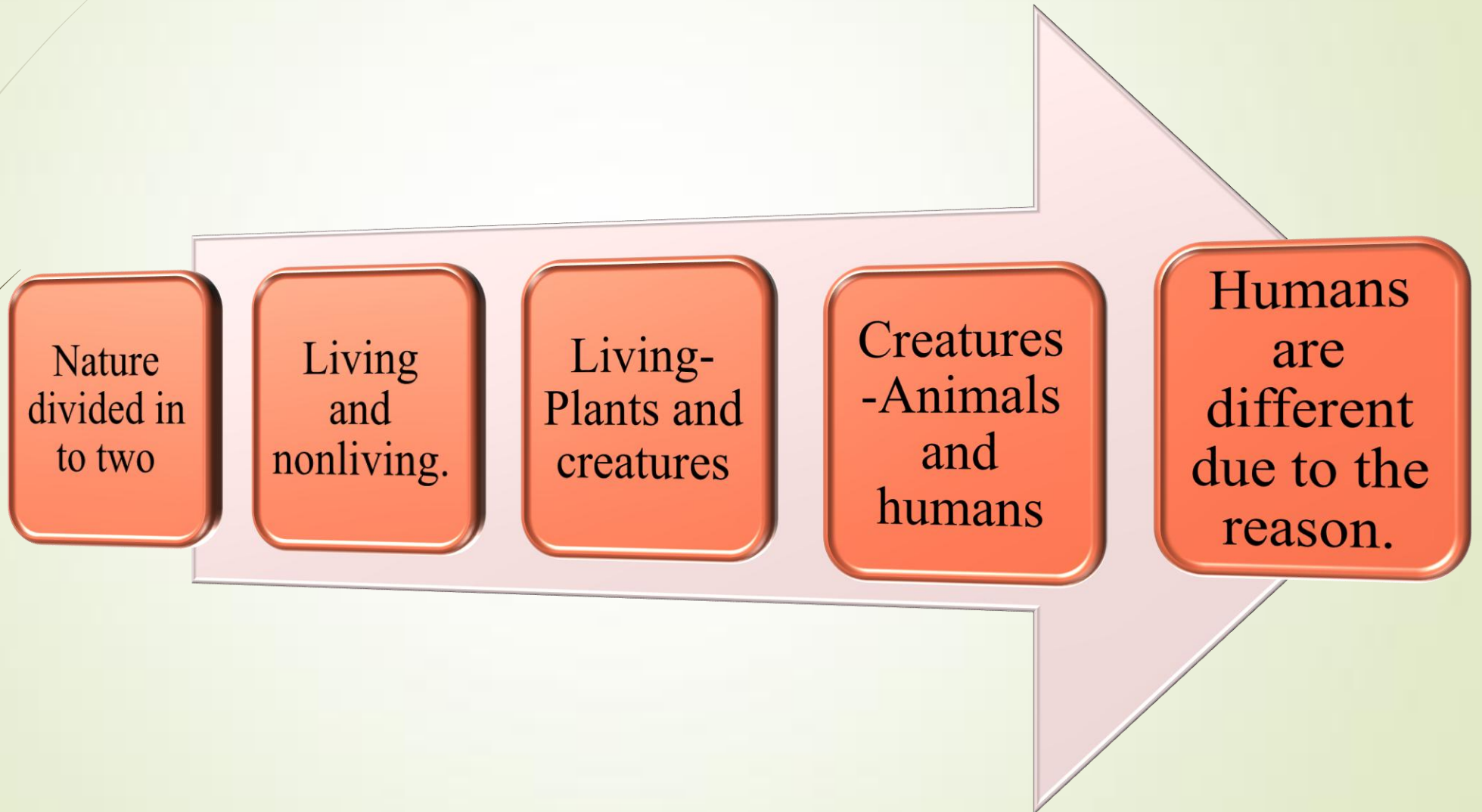
- **Neo-Platonism** is a Hellenistic school of philosophy founded by Plotinus (204-270BCE) in the 3rd Century. The term “Neo-Platonism” refers to a philosophical school of thought that first emerged and flourished in the Greco-Roman world of late antiquity.
- In 3rd century BCE Plato's philosophy revived by Neo-Platonist philosophy which is synthesis of Persian, Indian philosophy with Plato's philosophy.
- This philosophy is called Neo-Platonist as it has combined the teachings of classical Greek philosophy, but also by Persian and Indian philosophy (from Plotinus extensive travels) and **Egyptian theology**.

- Neo-Platonism is generally a **religious philosophy**, combining a form of Idealistic Monism. Egyptian-born Plotinus is regarded as the founder of Neo-Platonism. Around 245, at the age of 40, Plotinus moved from Alexandria to Rome and founded a school of philosophy there.
- Plotinus is one of the intellectual giants of antiquity, on a par with the likes of Socrates, Plato and Aristotle. Carefully selected passages from Plato's dialogues and Aristotle's *Metaphysics* often serve him as starting points for his own speculations.

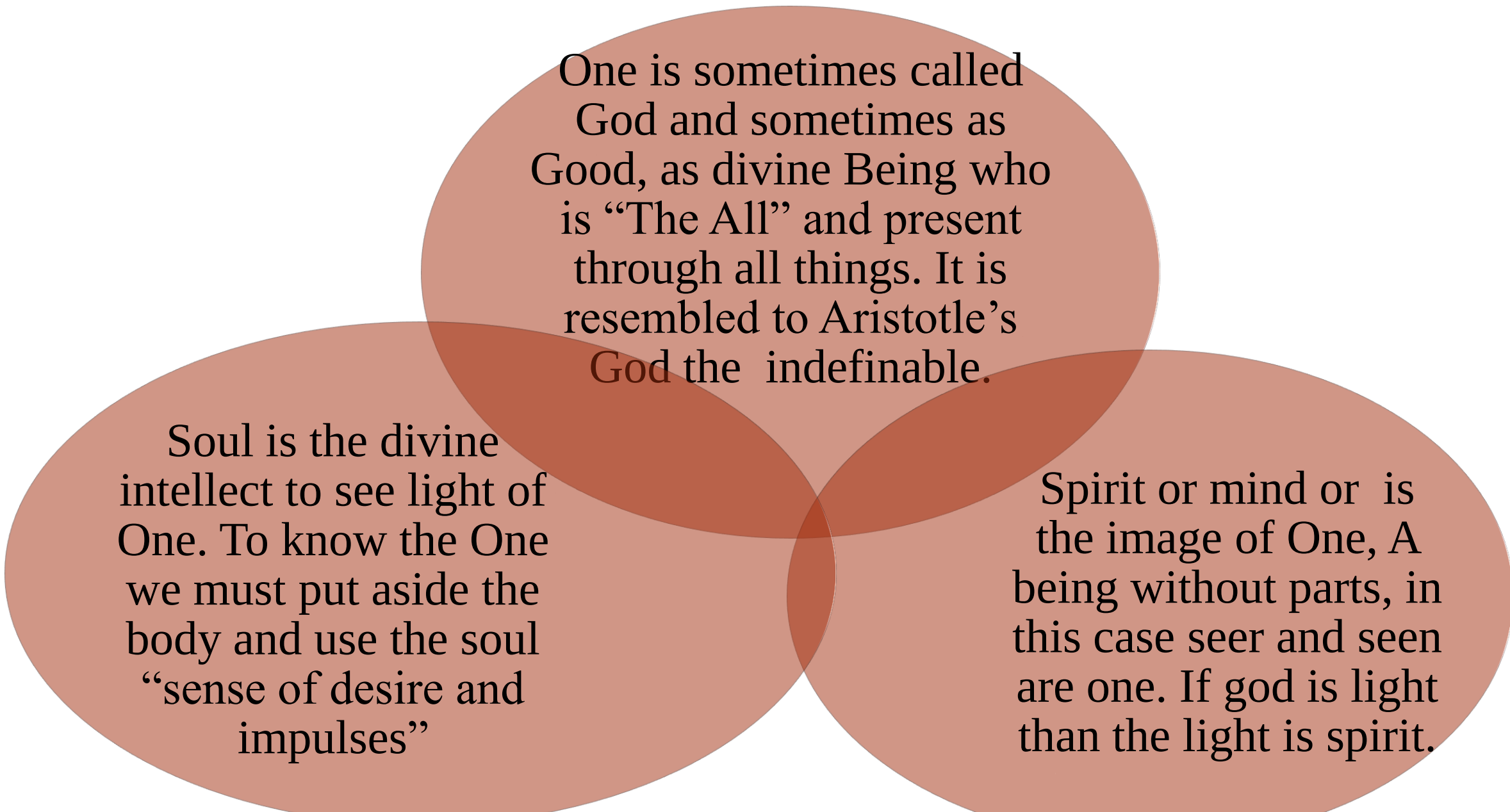
Metaphysical -THE ONE- Philosophy

- The one is matter and concept together means everywhere and nowhere.
- Everything on the basis of a single cause that they considered divine, and indiscriminately referred to as “the First”, “the One”, or “the Good”. Universe emerged from “the First One” in coherent stages, in such a way that one stage functions as creative principle of the next.
- Sun as One provides heat and energy without losing its own energy and light.
- This one is unchangeable, pure potentiality, unmoved mover, neither matter nor idea but combines both.

Aristotle's Physics-Nature



One-Spirit-Soul



One is sometimes called God and sometimes as Good, as divine Being who is “The All” and present through all things. It is resembled to Aristotle’s God the indefinable.

Soul is the divine intellect to see light of One. To know the One we must put aside the body and use the soul “sense of desire and impulses”

Spirit or mind or is the image of One, A being without parts, in this case seer and seen are one. If god is light than the light is spirit.

Absolute Consciousness

- Plotinus says “To know the divine mind/spirit, we must study our souls. The spirit and soul are the image of the “ONE”.
- Man with reason of Aristotle can be more near to “ONE”.
- “ONE” who is most superior and material is most inferior who has no consciousness like stone, air, marble who has no sense of consciousness called dead matter who are far away from one. Dead matters are in the darkness and one is light.

Plotinus's Physics-Nature

THE ONE- God, Light. Divine power.

Spirit- Divine image of being the One.

Soul- Consciousness, reason, logos-Human being

Matter. Dead material. iron, stone, marble.

Plotinus on Idea of universals

- Plato combined them in “Idea of Universals” things are predefined in ideal world and can not be changed but they are in change in to this world of senses.
- Material world is not relevant we have to get near to the One which is real world of Idea, One and purpose of material.
- Plotinus says “Phenomena are illusion of something “higher” and “intelligible” or the true part of genuine being”.
- Plotinus distrust in materiality extended to the body.
- Mysticism also focus on soul purification rather than body.

Plotinus's Ethics

Happiness is independent of physical world and is dependent on metaphysical.

Life's purpose was seen not so much in the exercise and rehearsal of the traditional virtues that give meaning and quality to our interaction with others, but in seeking "to bring back the god in us to the divine in the All"

The virtues' main function lies in purifying and preparing us for a much more momentous individual relationship, that with divine Consciousness and, ultimately, the first principle itself.

Philosophical Influence

- Neo-Platonists proved exceedingly influential throughout the entire history of western philosophy.
- Through Augustine (354–430) in the West and the 4th-century Cappadocia Fathers (Basil, Gregory of Nyssa, Gregory of Nazianzus) in the East as well as the pseudo-epigraphic writings of Dionysius the Areopagite (early 6th century),
- Neoplatonism profoundly influenced the emergence of mainstream and not so mainstream Christian theology (John Scotus Eriugena, Thomas Aquinas, Duns Scotus, Meister Eckhart).
- Neoplatonic thought facilitated the integration of ancient philosophy and science into both Islam (especially through Al-Kindi, Al-Farabi and Avicenna [Ibn Sina]) and Judaism (Maimonides)