

What is philosophy?

Karl Jaspers

Philosophy is considered to be something that concerns all, therefore it has to be simple and understandable to everyone. On the other hand, philosophy is supposedly too hard to be engaged in. For some, philosophy is practically 'despised' as thoughts of dreamers. However, 'that' which is actually referred to as philosophy offers examples for such judgements.

While science has achieved a ground of well-known findings, philosophy has no solid outcome that can be wielded. Philosophical thought has no character of a progressive process. While we did surpass the Greek physician Hippocrates, we are far from outstripping Plato.

Philosophy without science can be pointed out through some meaningful facts.

Firstly, about philosophical stuff everybody is certain that they are capable of judging. Therefore, the outcome of philosophy being accessible to everyone must be accepted.

Secondly, every philosophical thought has to be original, every man has to carry it out himself. So, the proof that man originally philosophies are children's questions. For example, a child had heard a story about the beginning of life "The god had created sky and earth". Soon the child asks "What was before the beginning?". That child had found out that the question spreads into infinity, that the intellect can't stop and is not able to find a final answer.

Thirdly, original philosophy exerts not only from children but from mentally ill people. The saying that children and crazy people speak the truth has a deep meaning. But the original creativity of the great philosophical thoughts does not lie there, but in an individual who with their open-mindedness and independence appeared like amazingly great minds.

And lastly, there is no escape from philosophy. The question is, are we really aware of it, conscious of it or not, whether it is good or bad. The one who rejects philosophy, is siding with another philosophy, without being aware.

What is philosophy? The essence of philosophy is seeking the truth, not possessing it. Philosophy means 'being on the road'. In other words, its questions are more important than answers, and every answer has a question that follows.

I remembered one question that has been probably asked for decades, but has no answer.

Do we have free will?