Nile Global Academia

Course Title: Logic and Critical Thinking

Course Code: Phil1011

Module Prepared by: Ministry of Science and Higher Education

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Chapter One: Logic and Philosophy

Lesson 1: Meaning and Nature of Philosophy

- Philosophy has ***no a specific subject matter*** to primarily deal with. What contents philosophy has are **issues**, which are ***universal in nature***
- The best way to learn philosophy is to philosophize; i.e., to be confronted with philosophical questions and maneuvers, to read the philosophers themselves, and to grapple with issues for oneself.
- Socrates once stated that ***"Wonder is the feeling of a philosopher, and philosophy begins in wonder"***. We all have touched and moved by the feelings of wonder from which all philosophy derives.

Lesson 1: Meaning and Nature of Philosophy

- ***Etymologically***, the word "**philosophy**" comes from two Greek words: "***philo" and "Sophia***", which mean ***"love" and "wisdom"***, respectively. Thus, philosophy is ***"love of wisdom"***
- Anyone who ***raises questions***, such as Does God exists? What is reality? What is the ultimate source of being? What is knowledge? What does it mean to know? How do we come to know? What is value? And the like are dealing with philosophical questions about the world and the human experiences

Lesson 1: Meaning and Nature of Philosophy

- According to Socrates, ***wisdom*** consists of a critical habit and eternal vigilance about all things and a reverence for truth.
- Accordingly, ***philosophy, as a pursuit of wisdom***, is, the development of critical habits, the continuous search for truth, and the questioning of the apparent
- To ***interrogate the obvious*** means to deal creatively with the phenomenal world, to go beyond the common understanding, and to speculate about things that other people accept with no doubt.

Lesson 1: Meaning and Nature of Philosophy

- ***Raising the right question*** is often taken not only as the beginning and direction of philosophy but also as its essence
- The ***philosophical enterprise***, as Vincent Barry stated, is "an active imaginative process of formulating proper questions and resolving them by rigorous, persistent analysis"
- ***Philosophy*** is a rational and critical enterprise that tries to formulate and answer fundamental questions through an intensive application of reason – an application that draws on *analysis, comparison, and evaluation*

Lesson 1: Meaning and Nature of Philosophy

- ***Philosophy*** involves reason, rational criticism, examination, and analysis.
- Accordingly, we can say that ***philosophy*** has ***a constructive side***, for it attempts to formulate rationally defensible answers to certain fundamental questions concerning the nature of reality, the nature of value, and the nature of knowledge and truth.
- At the same time, ***its critical side*** is manifested when it deals with giving a rational critic, analysis, clarification, and evaluation of answers given to basic metaphysical, epistemological, and axiological questions.

Lesson 1: Meaning and Nature of Philosophy

- ***Philosophy*** is an activity.
- A ***philosopher*** is a great philosopher, not because he mastered philosophy, but because he did it.
- A ***philosopher's*** extraordinary ability to critically think, to conceptualize, to analyze, to compare, to evaluate, and to understand- i.e. to philosophize.

Next course is Lesson 2: Basic Features of Philosophy

Thank you for watching!

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