



Socrates, Plato and Aristotle: More Tips For Young Travellers, New Philosophers, and Older Searchers (Socrates 4 Today Book 2)

James Head

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This eBook contains three succinct introductory essays on the philosophy of Socrates, Plato and Aristotle. New readers of Plato or Aristotle may be surprised to learn that ‘real’ Greek philosophy is just as much a practical subject as it is intellectual or academic pursuit. Philosophy simply means the love of wisdom and making ourselves a little bit wiser as we go through life. It is something we should all take a practical and intellectual interest in as we go through life. It is not the preserve of a small group of people.

The first eBook of three essays in this ‘Socrates 4 Today’ series (‘Essential Tips.....’) finished with an essay on Plato’s book *The Phaedrus* and Plato’s mythical charioteer driving his chariot (representing the soul) high up through the clouds until he can stare at the heavens and all the beautiful things there. This second eBook starts with our feet firmly back on the ground with an essay on Aristotle’s practical philosophy, and concerns down to earth matters like how to improve our personal happiness and the wellbeing of the cities and societies we live in. Aristotle says that the only way to improve our societies is to improve ourselves and gives his practical ideas about how to set about this. This first essay also touches on sustainability, the environment, the methods and goals of our education systems; and fundamental political questions like what it is we really want our political leaders to do for us. The essay also gives a few examples of Aristotle’s ‘tips’ for new statesmen and women should they find themselves in positions of leadership, and some of the pitfalls to avoid.

The second essay looks at Plato’s book *The Phaedo* which discusses Socrates’ views about whether the soul exists or not, and if it does whether it is immortal. Socrates gives these views on the last day of his life while talking to his close friends while in prison in Athens on the very day he is to be executed. *The Phaedo* is also therefore a moving account of the death and martyrdom of Socrates. *The Phaedo* also encourages new and experienced philosophers to question what real being and reality actually is. In true Socratic style mere opinion is not enough, and Socrates gives reasons and ‘proofs’ for thinking the way he does and these are clearly outlined in this essay .

In the third and final essay the author, James Head, allows himself to begin expressing rather more personal views of what it means to lead a philosophical life in the modern (‘Western’) world today. The essay draws on some of the threads from the previous five essays of the two eBooks in this series, and adds some further comments on what the ‘Philosophical Path’ actually is. This essay also suggests how one might start along that path, perhaps taking a few of those words of advice that Socrates gave to his friends (and perhaps to us all) from his prison cell in Athens more than 2,400 years ago. This final essay also looks briefly at the second Delphi Maxim of Miden Agan (‘Nothing to Excess’) and considers what it actually means and how to begin applying it to our lives today.

(All Amazon eBook publishing royalties received for this eBook during 2015 will be given to the UK registered charity Centrepoint. This organisation helps homeless young people get their lives back on track in the long term, and helps them stay on a better path. See www.centrepoin.org.uk for details.)

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