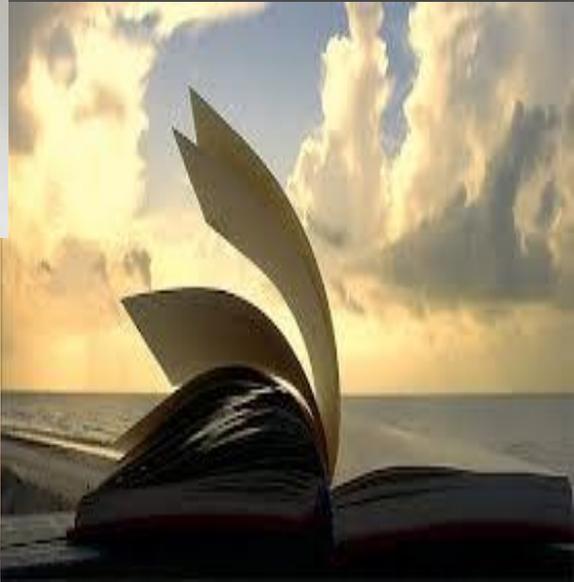
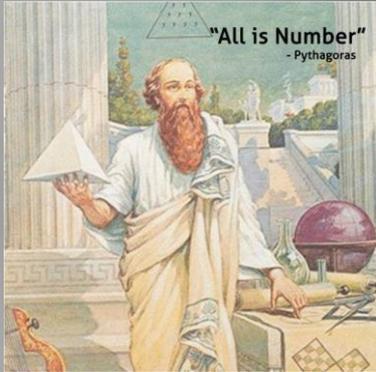


# Presocratic philosophy



# Pythagoreism

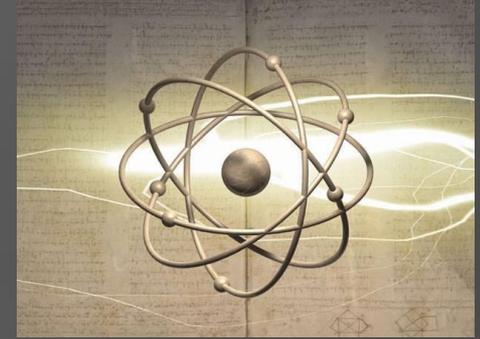


# Presocratics

## Pluralist school



## Atomist school



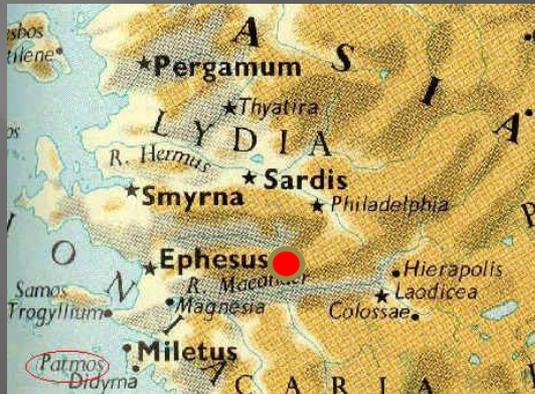
## Milesian School



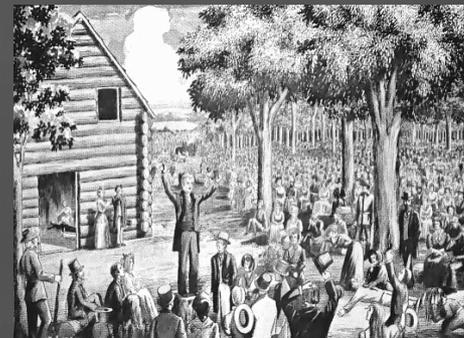
## Eleatic school



## Ephesian school



## Sofists



# Plan:

1. Inception of Ancient Greek Philosophy

2. Milesian School:

Thales, Anaximandros and Anaximene

3. The Being:

- Heraclit from Effes

- Parmenides form Elea

4. The Sophists:

- Protagoras

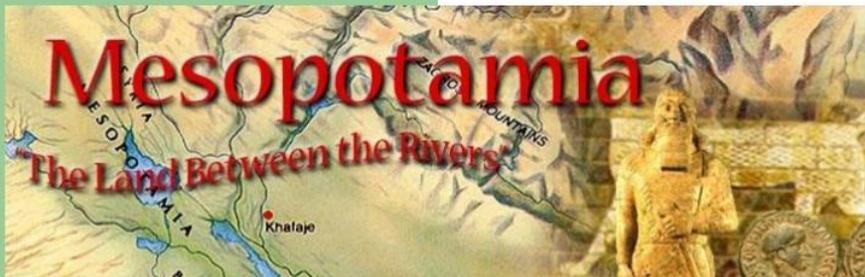
- Gorgias

## THE BABYLONIAN CIVILIZATION

**“For the sun-clock and the sundial and the twelve divisions of the day the Greeks learned from the Babylonians”  
Herodotus**

## Assyrian Civilization

**Greek Debt to Egyptian, Assyrian and Babylonian Science**



**Egyptian and Mesopotamian astronomy observation: motive seen to be to understand and appease deities<sup>3</sup>**

## The Ancient Egyptian Civilization

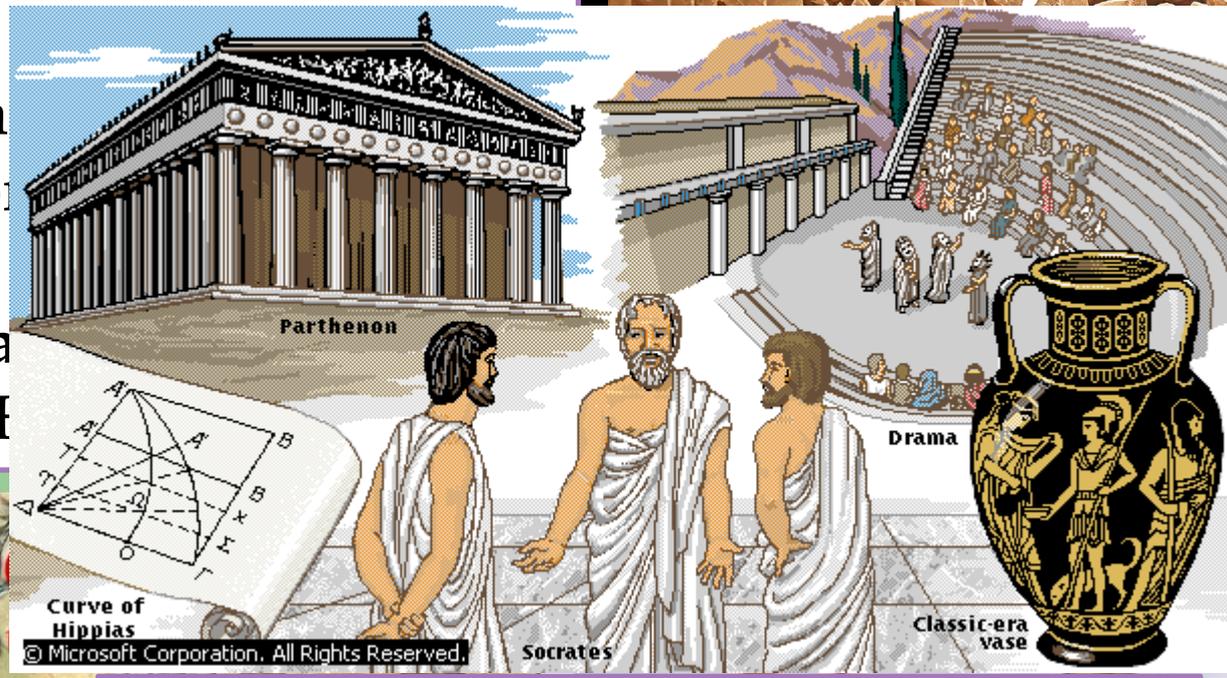
**Thus the mathematical sciences originated in the neighborhood of Egypt, because there the priestly class was allowed leisure. Aristotel**

# THE BABYLONIAN CIVILIZATION

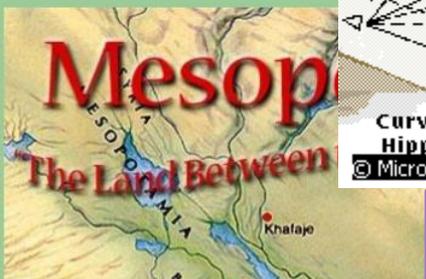


Assyrian

“For the  
sundia  
divisio  
Greeks  
Ba  
E



gyptian,  
Science



Egy  
Mesopotam  
observatio  
to be to u  
appea

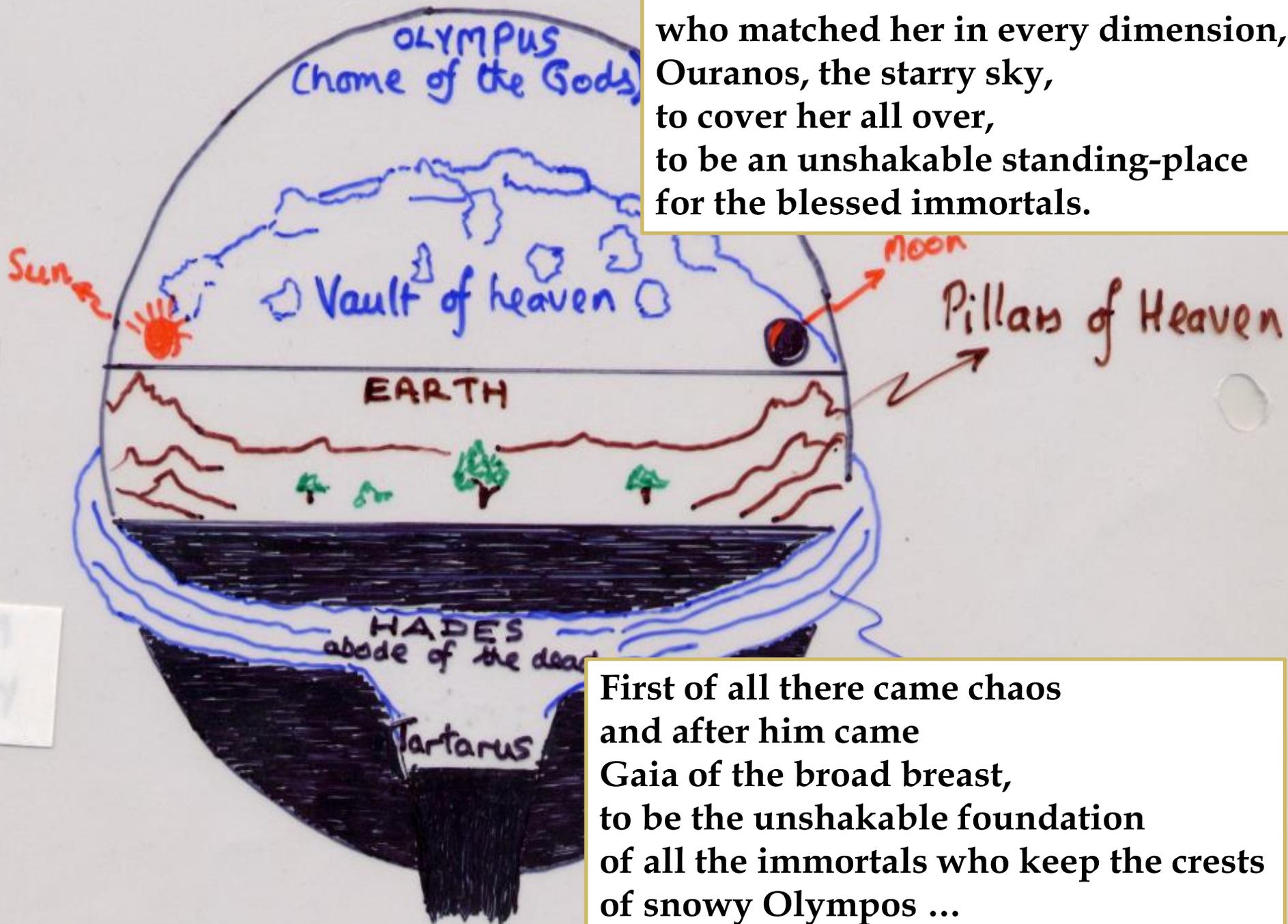
The Ancient Greeks did not invent science, though they did much to systematize and put it on an exact and universal basis. 4



cal  
n the  
ypt,  
estly class  
Aristotel

# Ancient Greece 400 BC





But Gaia's first born was one who matched her in every dimension, Ouranos, the starry sky, to cover her all over, to be an unshakable standing-place for the blessed immortals.

First of all there came chaos and after him came Gaia of the broad breast, to be the unshakable foundation of all the immortals who keep the crests of snowy Olympos ...

# Ancient Greek philosophy



# Ancient Greek philosophy

Focuses on the role of reason and inquiry

Nonetheless,  
philosophy is a  
Greek creation.

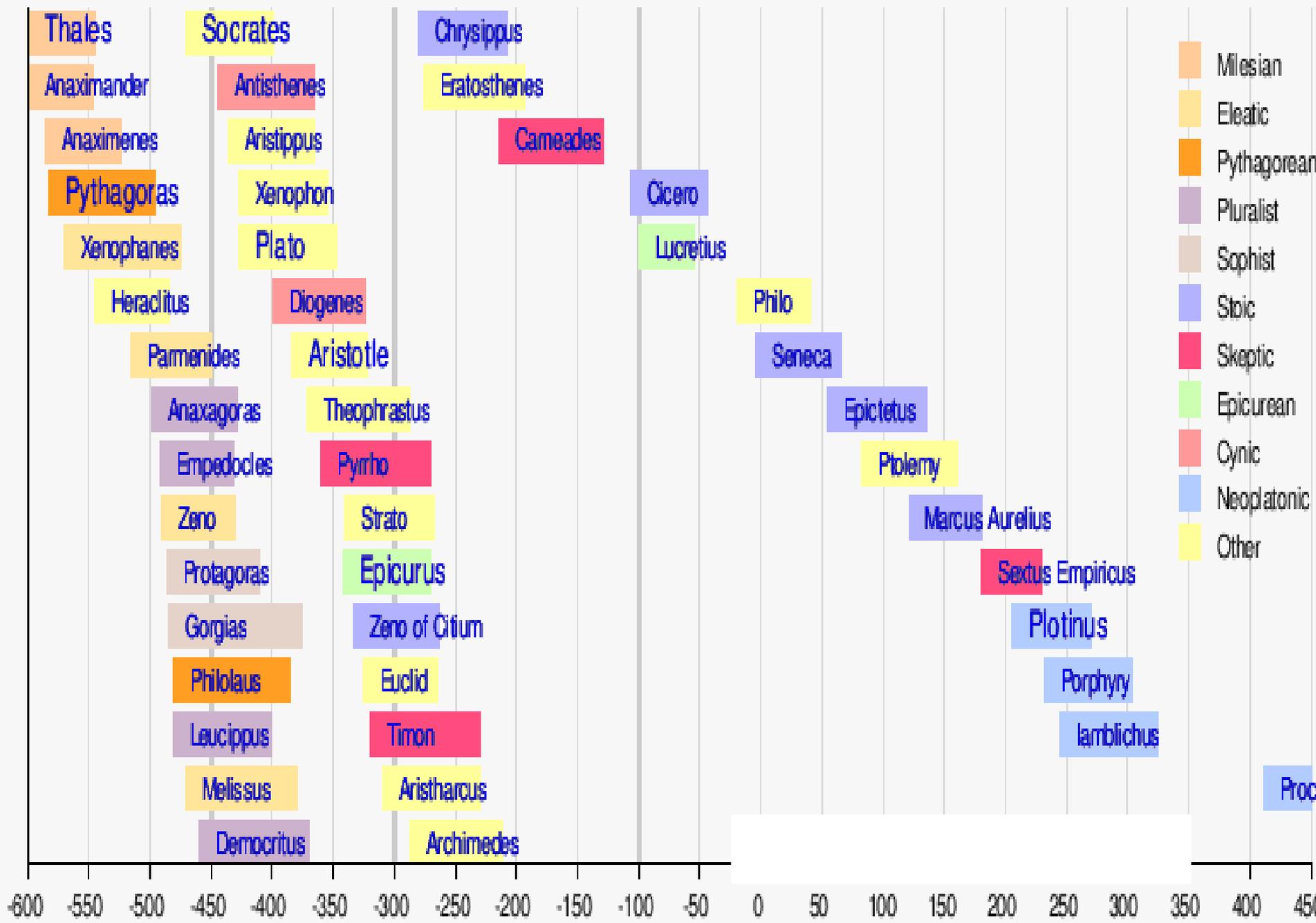
Many philosophers today  
concede that Greek  
philosophy has shaped the  
entire Western thought since  
its inception 6

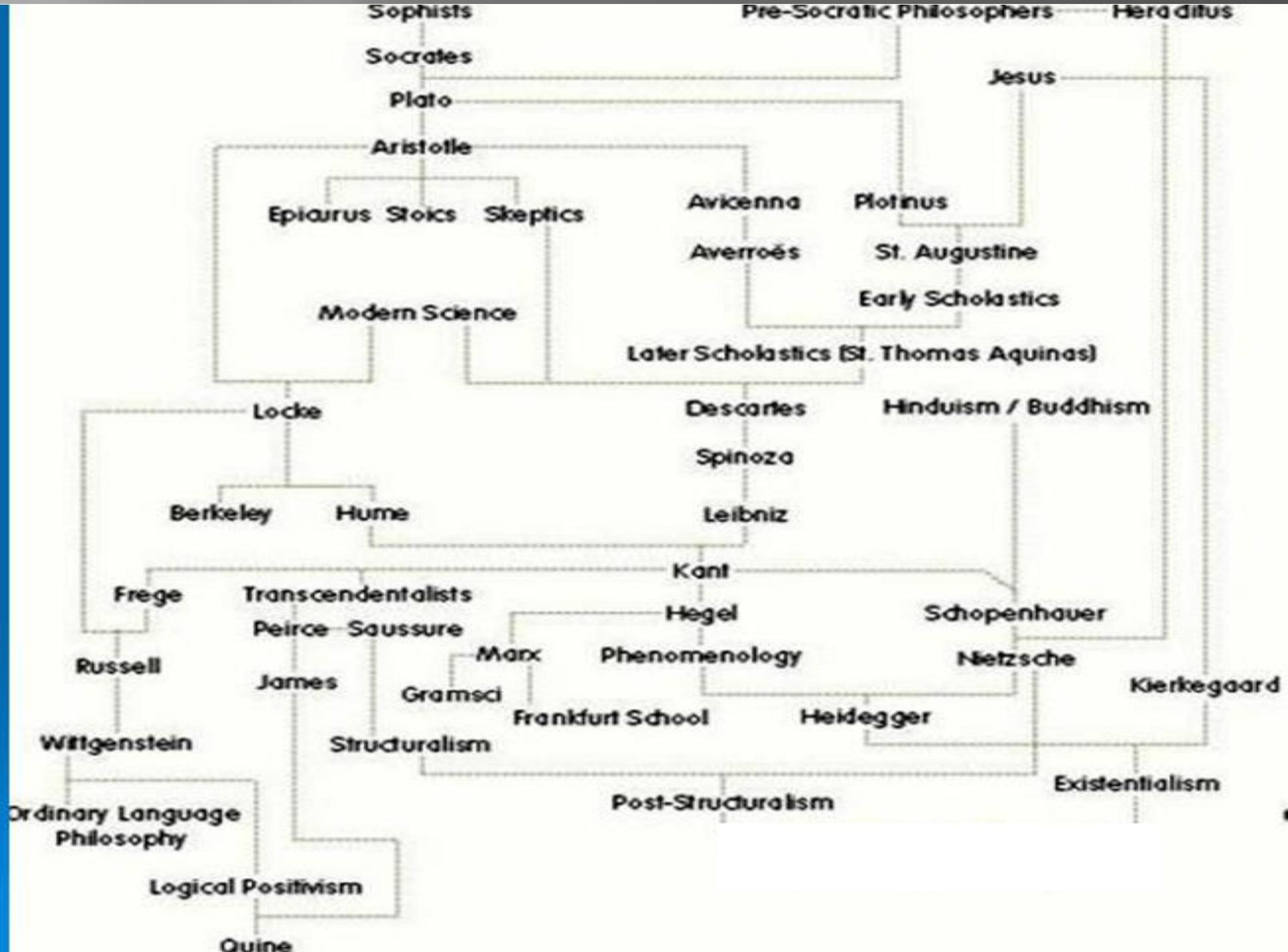
Seeks to view of the entire universe

everything which has a  
beginning has a cause

Philosophy as a critical  
stance in search of proper  
definitions

seeks to trace everything back to its  
*"ultimate grounds."*





# The First 3 Western Philosophers are from Miletus

- ▣ It is among the colonies of Asia Minor that the story of philosophy begins, in the city of Miletus where the first three Western philosophers were born and lived:
- ▣ Thales, Anaximander, Anaximenes
- ▣ They sought the PRIMARY SUBSTANCE. 7



PRIMARY  
SUBSTANCE.





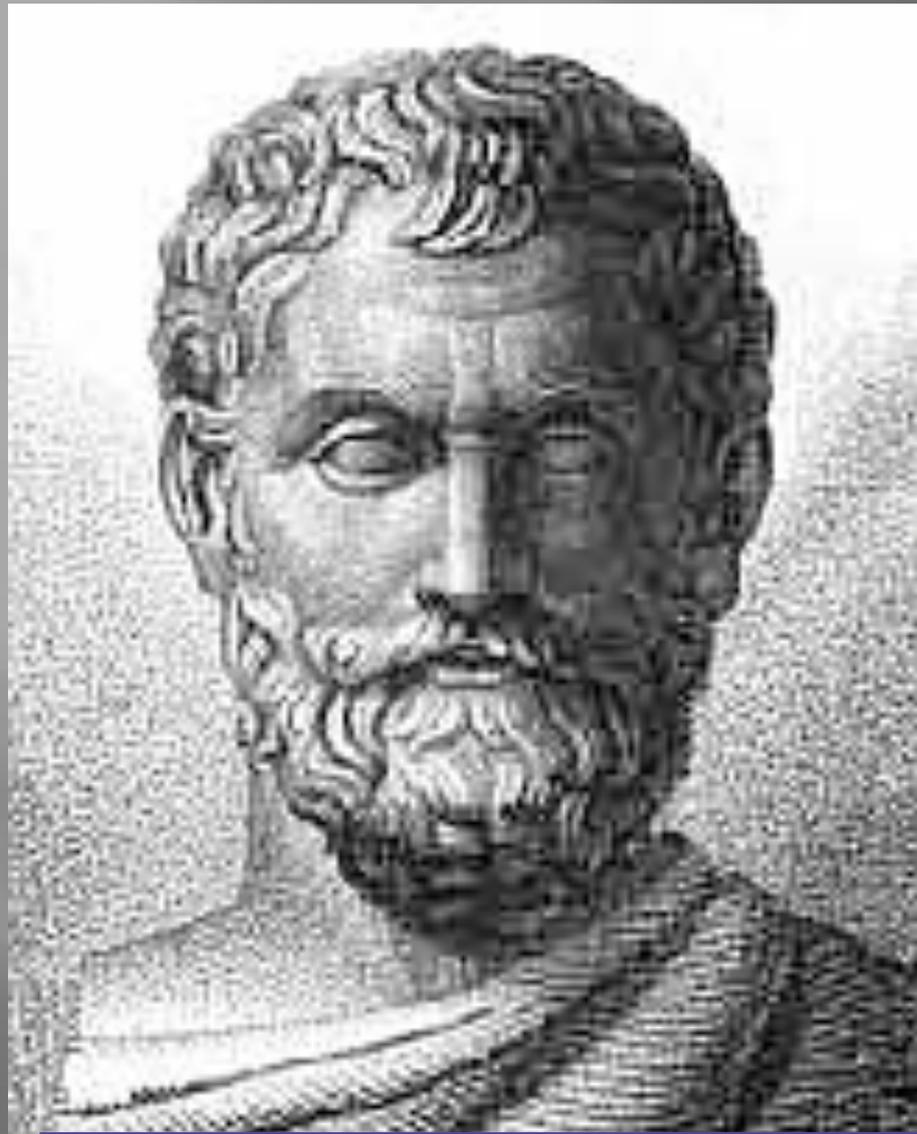
**Presocratics**

**Superstition**

**Science**

Is the belief in supernatural causality – that one event causes another without any natural process linking the two events – such as astrology and religions, like omens, witchcraft, and prophecies, that contradict natural science. 8

Is a systematic enterprise that builds and organizes knowledge in the form of testable explanation and predictions about the universe.



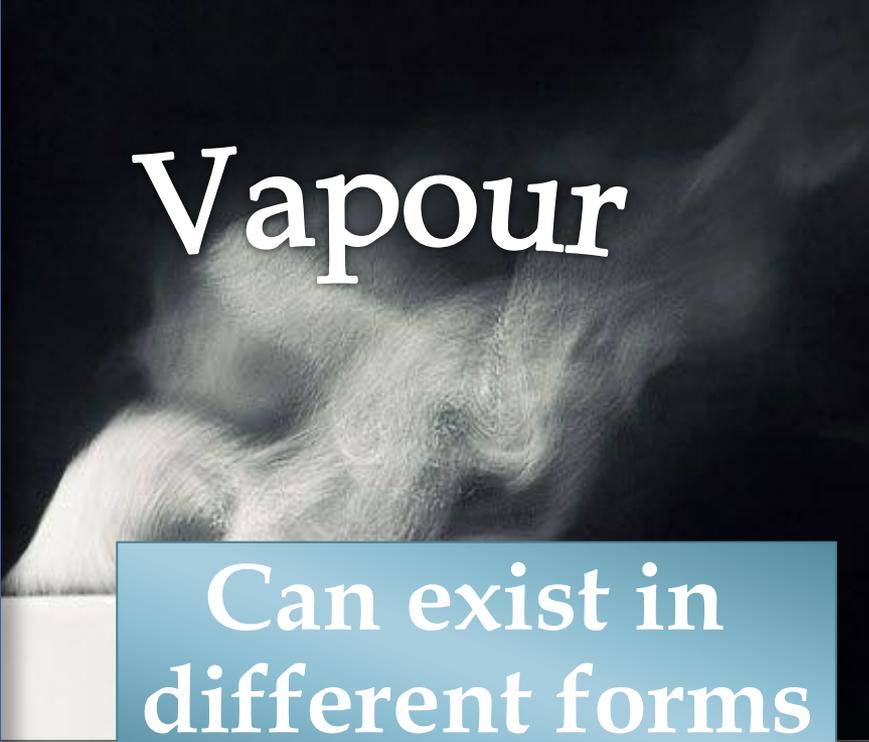
**Thales (c. 624-550B.C.)  
founder or father of the  
Ionic School of  
philosophy, famous for  
his mathematical  
& astronomical learning &  
for his practical wisdom**

**Thales is said to have  
declared the primary  
substance is ????????**

**He held that the transformation of this fundamental  
substance is the source of all living things. 9**

He concluded that there must be an underlying principle to all things and he concluded that this was water. 10

# Vapour



Can exist in different forms

Crucially, Thales was trying to move away from the mythical explanations of the world (Gods, Titans etc) to a natural explanation of the world.

# Water



# Ice



All comes from water & to water all returns

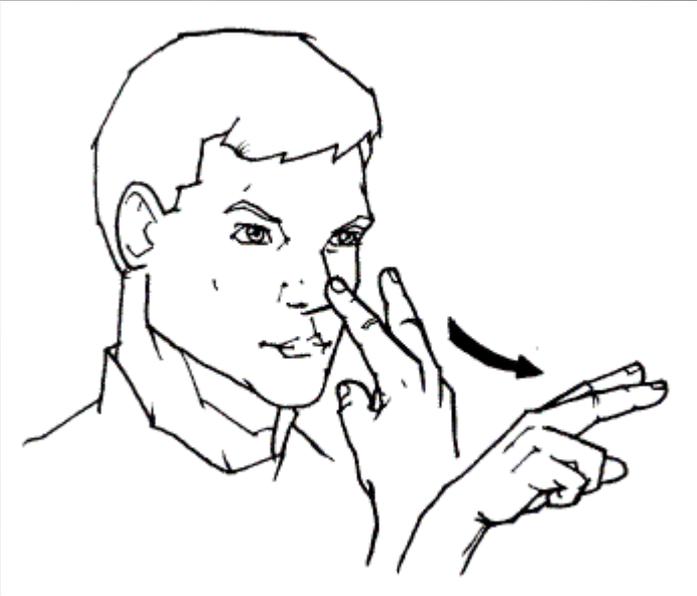
# Anaximander (610-547 BC)

Primary  
Substance:  
Boundless,  
changing,  
undefined.



All things are made of apeiron & return  
to apeiron

# Apeiron



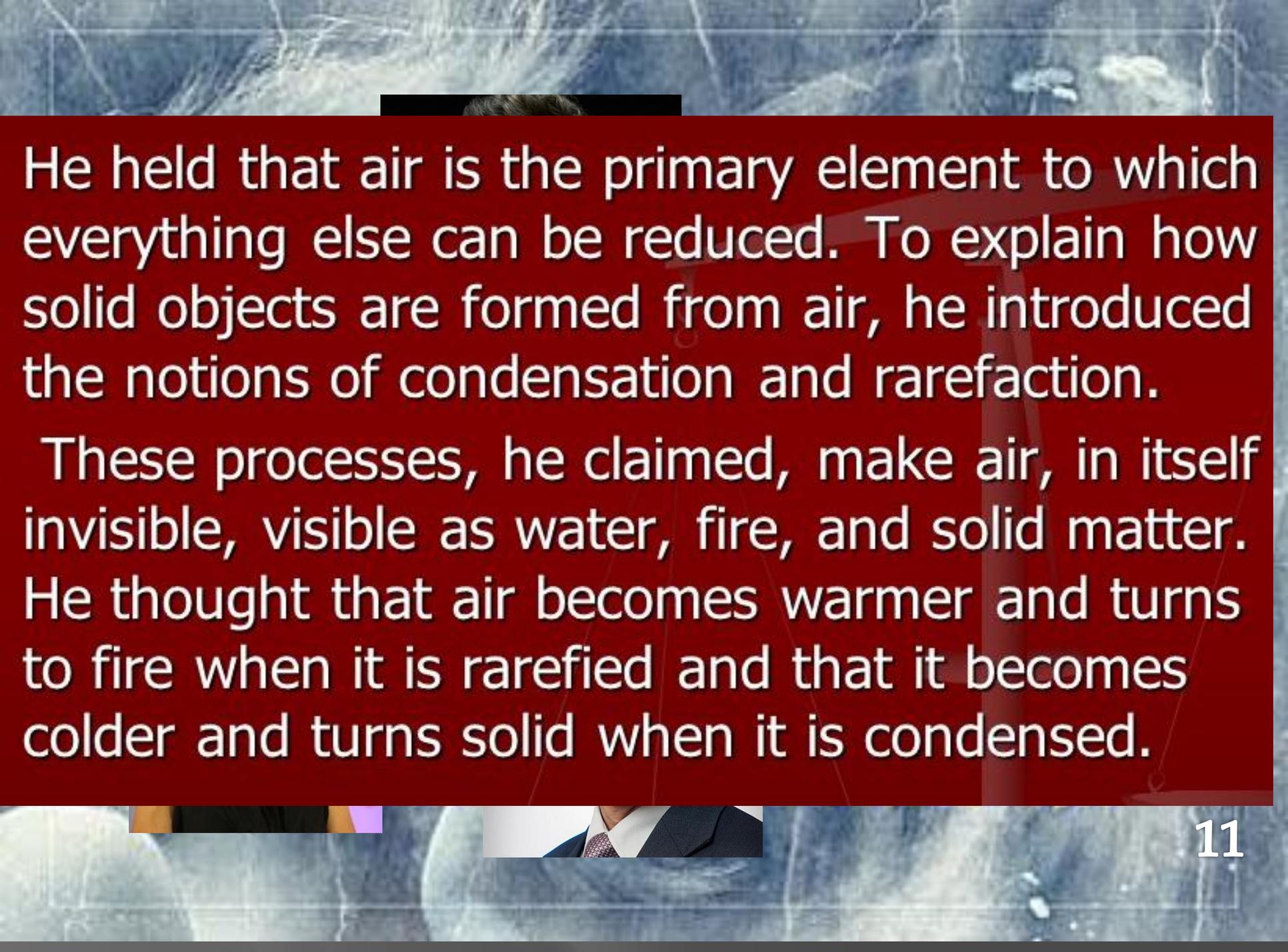
He doubted whether any fundamental substance would exist in an observable *pure* form.

# Anaximenes (585-525 BC)

- ▣ **Primary Substance: Air-** all matter is composed of air.
- ▣ **Air is central for life-** all known living creatures need air to survive.



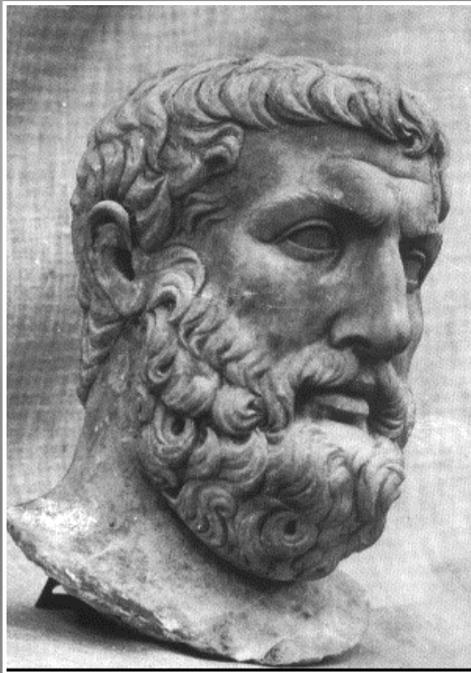




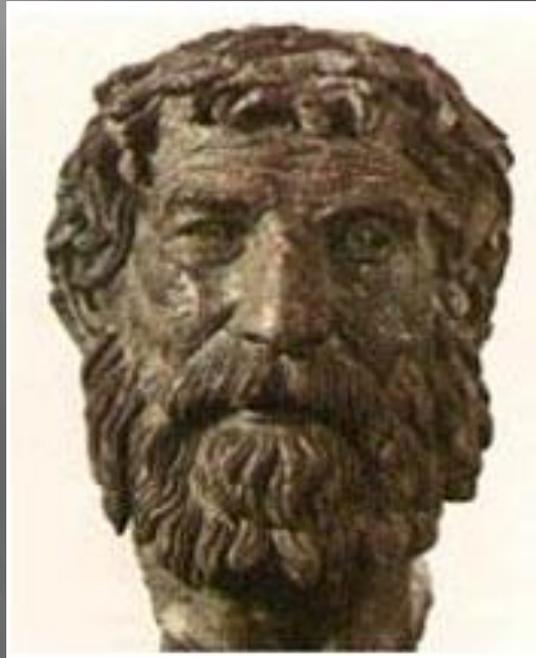
He held that air is the primary element to which everything else can be reduced. To explain how solid objects are formed from air, he introduced the notions of condensation and rarefaction.

These processes, he claimed, make air, in itself invisible, visible as water, fire, and solid matter. He thought that air becomes warmer and turns to fire when it is rarefied and that it becomes colder and turns solid when it is condensed.

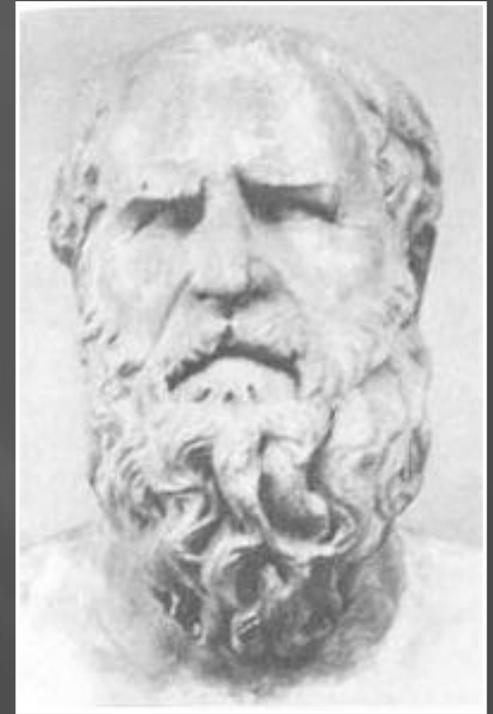
# Parmenides Empedocles Heraclitus



**Parmenides**

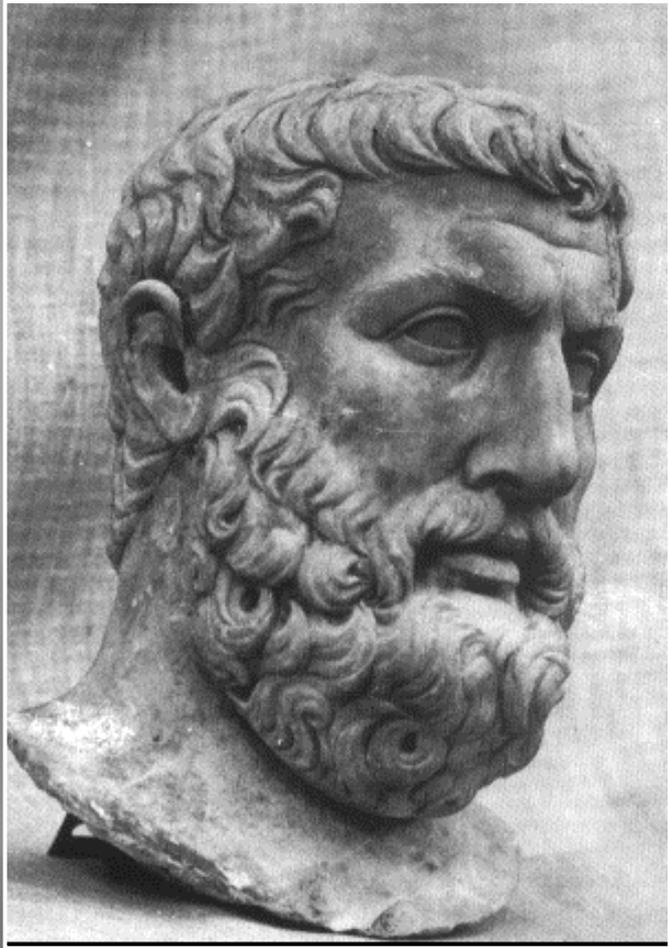


**Empedocles**



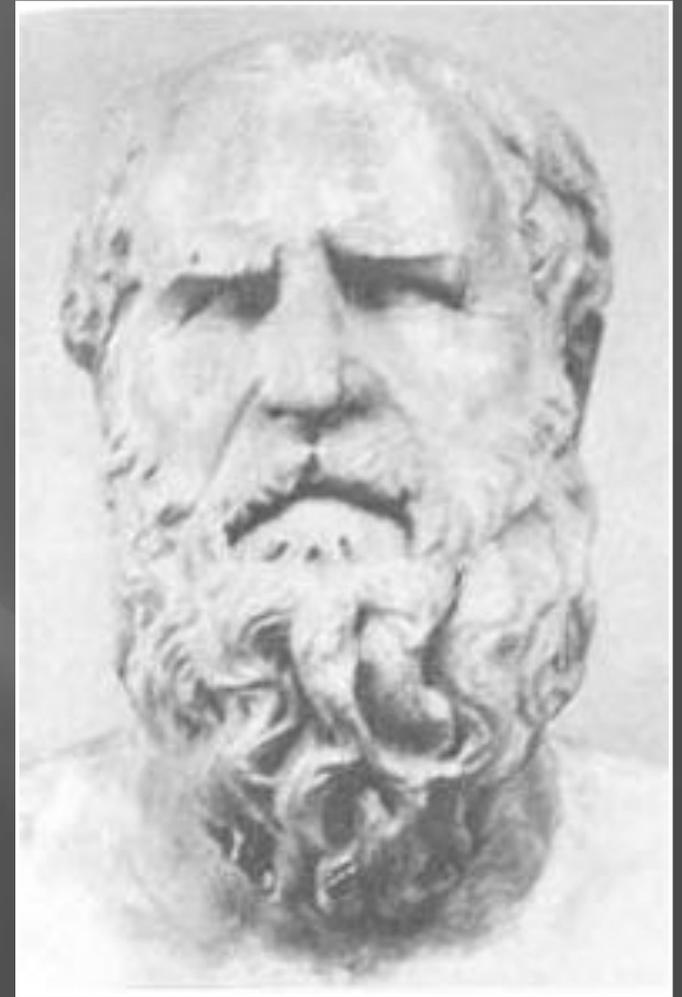
**Heraclitus**

Parmenides



Elea

Heraclitus



Ephes



FLO  
O T O

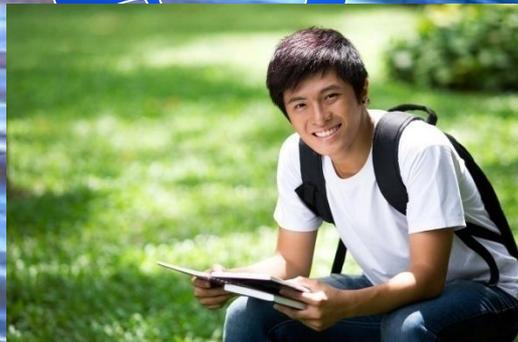
FLO



T

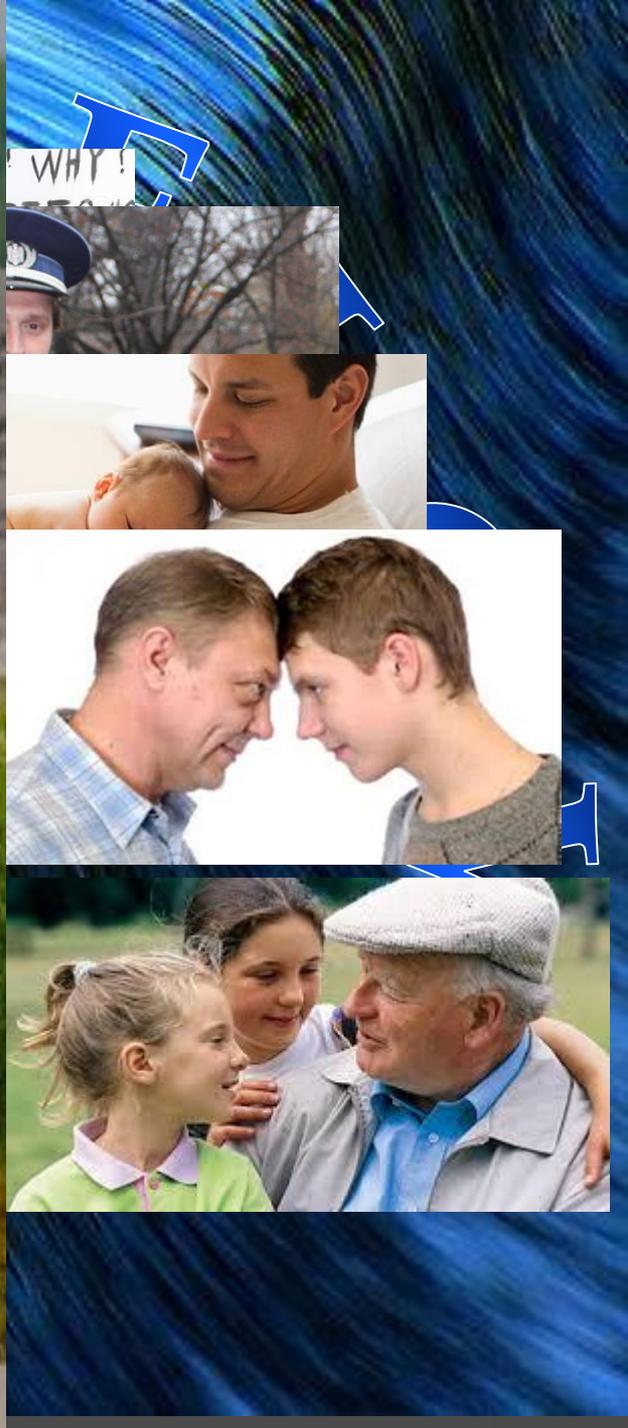
# ELO

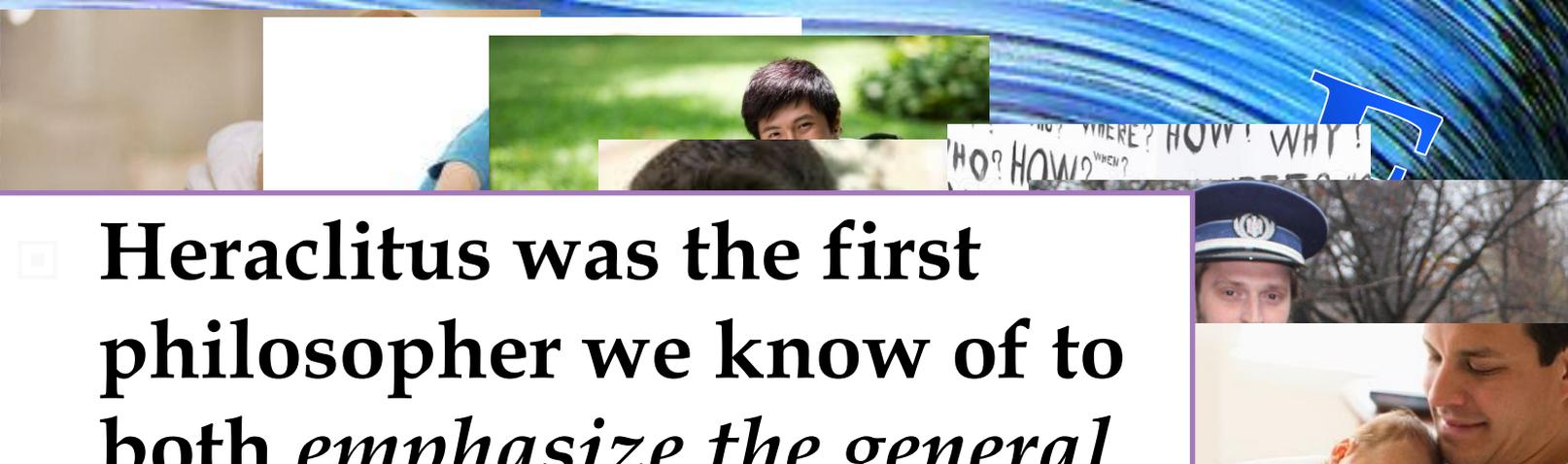




Sursa foto: Internet

FLOW





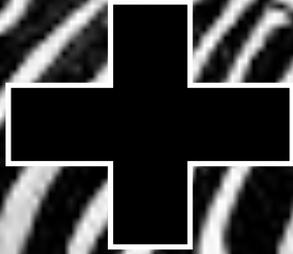
□ Heraclitus was the first philosopher we know of to both *emphasize the general process of change* and to *carefully analyze particular manifestations thereof*.

World is always "becoming" – never "is"

"You cannot step twice into the same river; for fresh waters are ever flowing in upon you."<sup>12</sup>



**All things exist between polar  
opposites -opposites must exist.**



**War is the king  
everything, it makes  
people kings and  
make others slaves,  
sets them free  
or enslaves them**

**13**

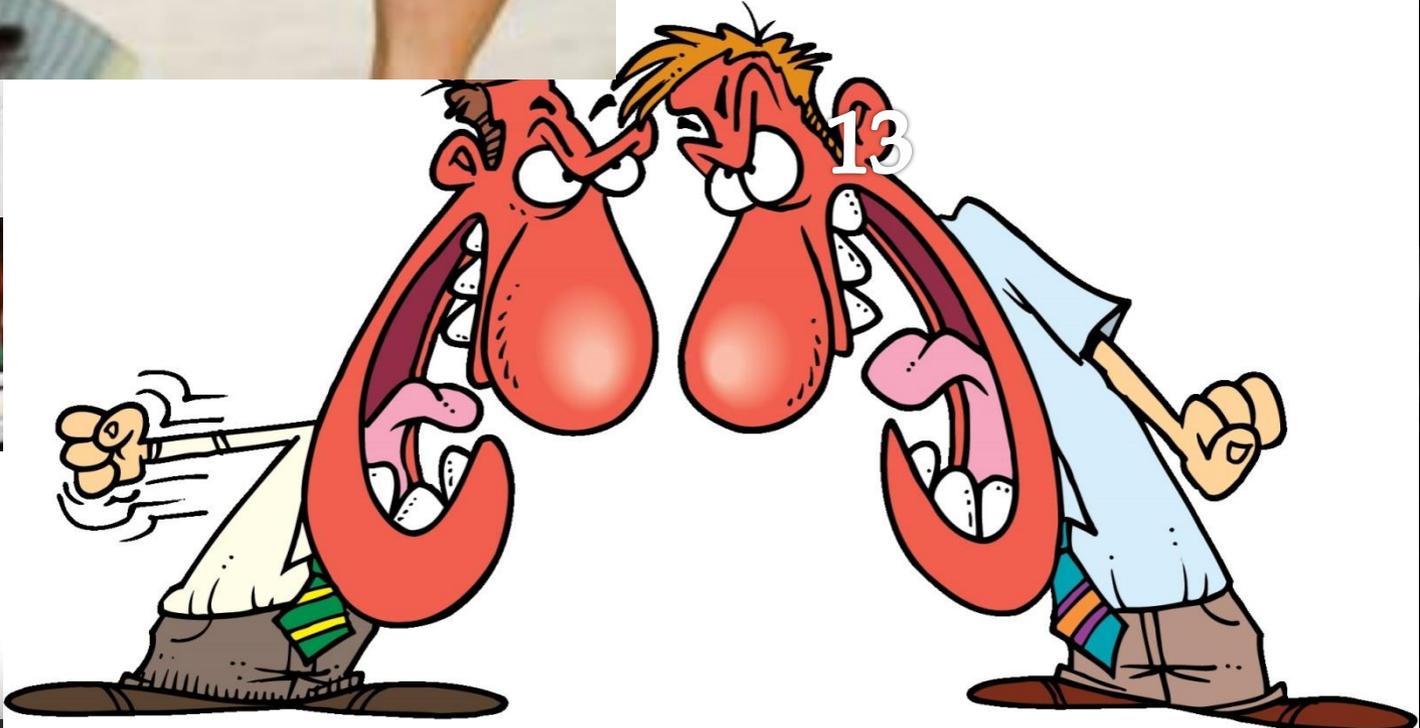
# All things exist between polar opposites -opposites must exist.



Green polar  
must exist.



or enslaves



All things exist between polar opposites - opposites must exist.

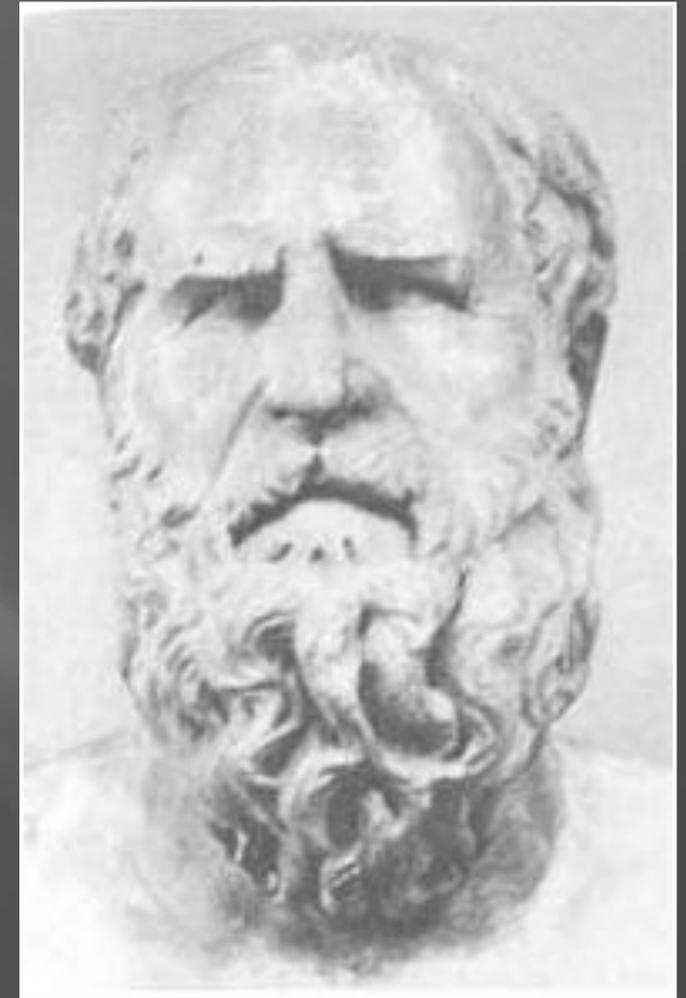
Fire is a more fundamental force or element than water.



13

Because it is *fire* (i.e., in the sun, or in a forge) which transforms solids into liquids-  
Fire, like everything else in the world is in motion (i.e., in "flux"). +

# Heraclitus

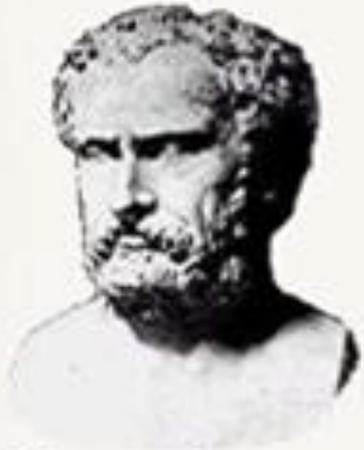


Ephes

- ▣ Everything is composed of fire
- ▣ Also means everything is in flux→
- ▣ “You can’t step into the same river twice.”
- ▣ “All things flow”
- ▣ “The sun is new everyday”
- ▣ “We are and we are not”
- ▣ “All we are is dust in the wind, all we are is dust in the wiiiiii-iiiiiiiind..... Ahhhhhh ah ahhhhh!!!”

# Eleatic school of thought

*Trusted facts and reason more than what appears to follow from our senses*



Xenophanes  
c. 570 – c. 475 BC



Parmenides  
c. 515 BC



Zeno  
c. 490 BC – c. 430 BC



Melissus  
c. 500 BC

14

- ▣ Opposite of Heraclitus → everything is stagnant
- ▣ “It is”
- ▣ The more things change, the more they stay the same



Extraterrestrial life, also called alien life, is life that does not originate from Earth.

Santa Claus, is a legendary figure of Western Christian culture who is said to bring gifts to the homes of well-behaved ("good" or "nice") children on Christmas Eve

Pegasus is one of the best known creatures in Greek mythology. He is a winged divine stallion also known as a horse usually depicted as pure white in color.

An angel, is a spiritual being superior to humans in power and intelligence.

# Being

- Extraterrestrial life, also called alien life, **is** life that does not originate...

Santa Claus, **is** a legendary figure of...

Pegasus **is** one of the best known creatures...

An angel, **is** a s

Eleatics founded

1. Greek logic

2. Greek metaphysics

3. Philosophical theology

All things are constant; change is an illusion  
One reality: finite, uniform, motionless, and fixed  
Knowledge comes only through reason  
(rationalism)

Sensory experience is not real, not to be trusted



# Zenon's Paradoxes



Baa

Baauu!!!

BPs

Uuu!!!

# Zenon's Paradoxes

15 a

Achilles, who moves very fast, is in a race with a tortoise. Achilles has given tortoise a head start. Before Achilles can catch the tortoise he must reach the point where the tortoise started. But in the time he takes to do this the tortoise has moved to a new point. So next Achilles must reach this new point. Every time that Achilles reaches the point where the tortoise was, the tortoise has move to a new point, so Achilles never catches the tortoise.



# Parmenides' argument against motion

- ▣ 1) What is, is; what is not, is not.
- ▣ 2) Change requires motion.
- ▣ 3) Motion requires empty space.
- ▣ 4) Empty space is nothing or something that is not.
- ▣ 5) Empty space is not
- ▣ 6) Motion is not.
- ▣ 7) Change is not.
- ▣ Therefore, Nothing ever changes or can change.

# Sophos



# Sophist

Personal followers  
and peers  
Studied nature  
Didn't know much  
outside of where  
they were from

Changed fees to study  
under them  
Studied human life  
Had a wide range of  
study, they traveled  
places and had their  
own experiences. 16



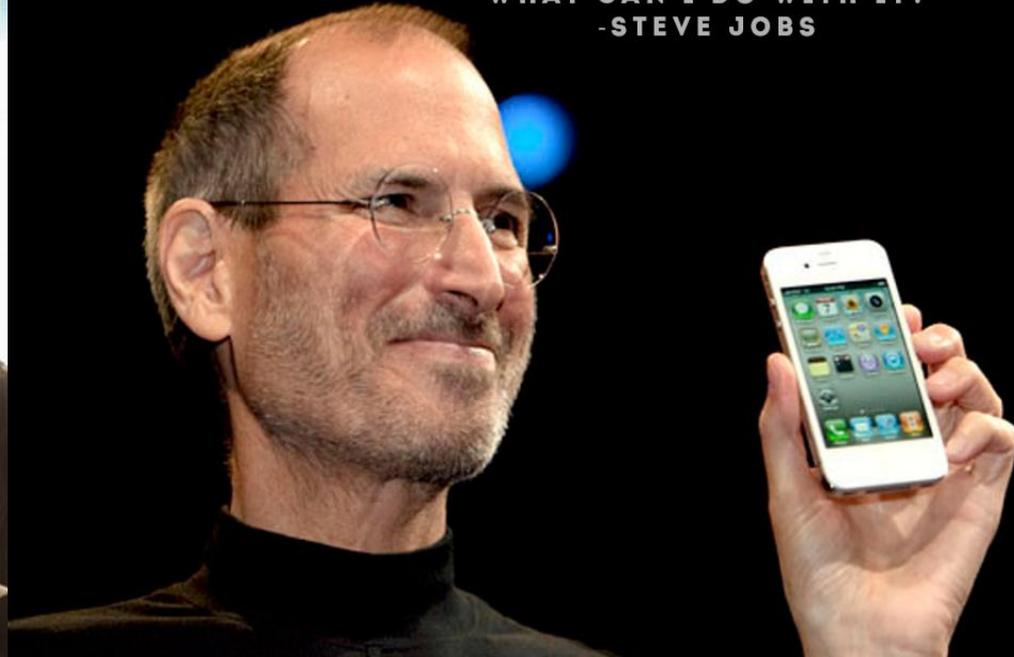
In the second half of the 5<sup>th</sup> C BCE, particularly at Athens, "sophist" came to denote a class of itinerant intellectuals.<sup>17</sup>

Sophists are the ancient version of self-help gurus or motivational speakers.

Are Motivational Speakers Born Like  
That or Learn the Art Over Time



OLDER PEOPLE SIT DOWN AND ASK,  
'WHAT IS IT?'  
BUT THE BOY ASKS,  
'WHAT CAN I DO WITH IT?'  
-STEVE JOBS

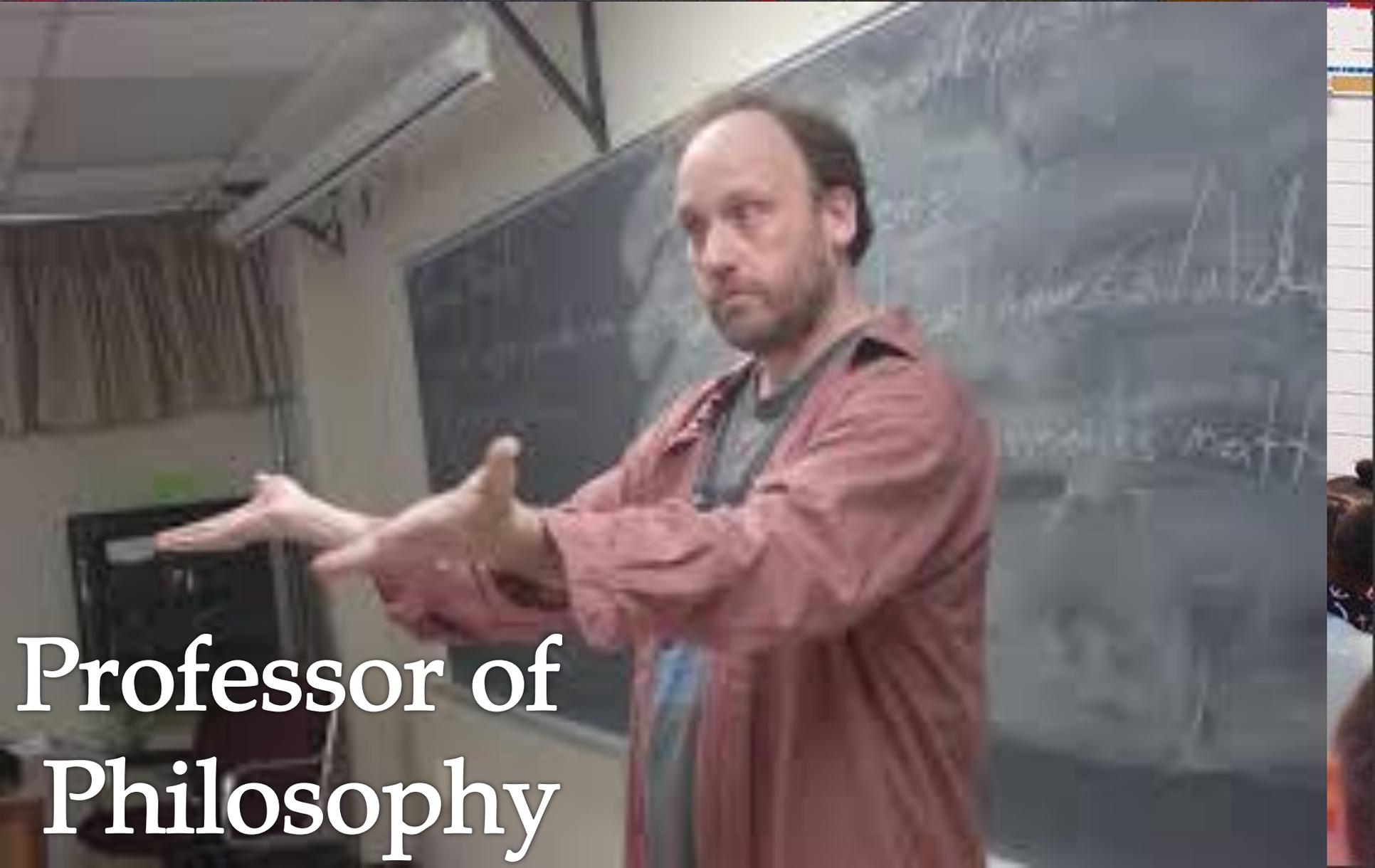


They were teachers & philosophers who charged money for their “wisdom”



They were teachers & philosophers who charged money for their "wisdom"

Professor of  
Philosophy



**They held that truth is relative - no single truth exists  
But claimed that they could find the answers to all  
questions.**

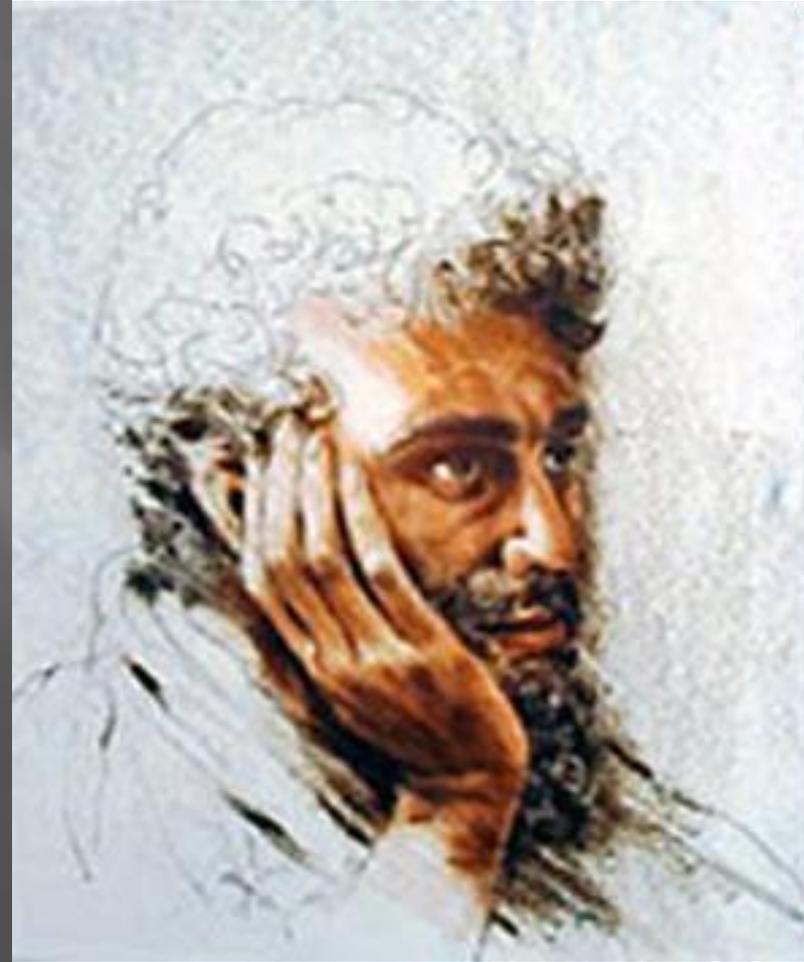
# Absolute Truth vs. Relative Truth

viewed or existing  
independently and not  
in relation to other things;  
not relative or  
comparative:  
*absolute moral standards.*

considered in relation or in  
proportion to something  
else; existing or  
possessing a specified  
characteristic only in  
comparison to something  
else; not absolute

# Protagoras

- ▣ “The First Sophist”
- ▣ “Man is the measure of all things”
- ▣ Had an apathetic view of God
- ▣ Followed the “anything goes” principle



*Perception varies from person to person because each perceiver has different experiences.*



**Truth depends on the perceiver.19**

Man is the measure of all things: of things which are, that they are, and of things which are not, that they are not. 20

(Protagoras)

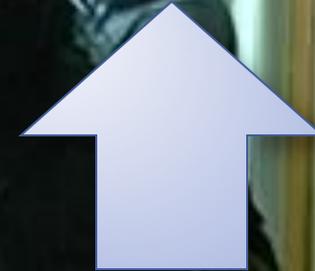
**Truth is partially determined by culture**



*To understand why a person believes as a person does, one must understand the person. +*



1. Interpretation  
court case



2. Interpretation  
court case

Protagoras asserted that there are two sides to every question, exactly opposite to each other.

(Diogenes of Sinope)

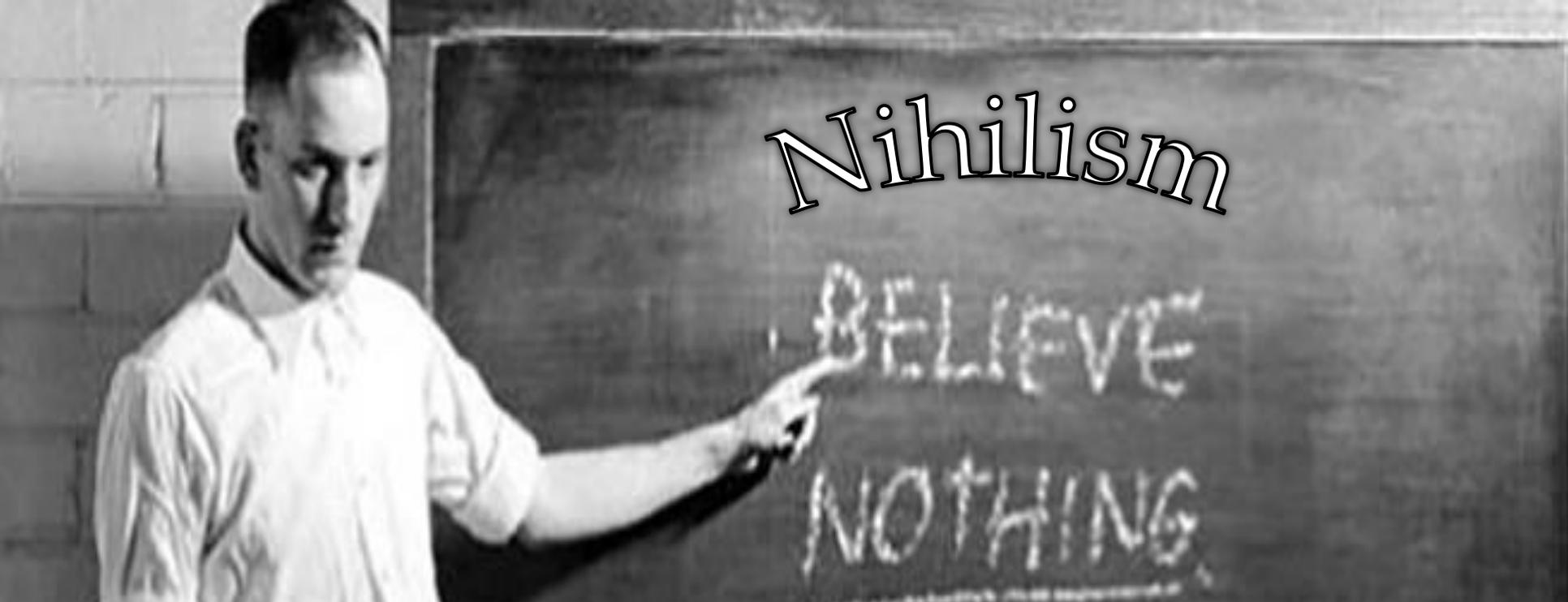


# Gorgias



- ▣ “The Nihilist”
- ▣ Nothing exists
- ▣ If anything did exist, you could not know about it
- ▣ If something existed and you knew about it, you could not communicate that awareness to others

# Nihilism



BELIEVE  
NOTHING



Meaning is malleable: take it out,  
you get nihilism and despair. Put it  
in, you get sacredness and  
something most special.

— *Dean Ornish* —