Some philosophers who left profound influence on human mind

Compiled by Star Campus Desk

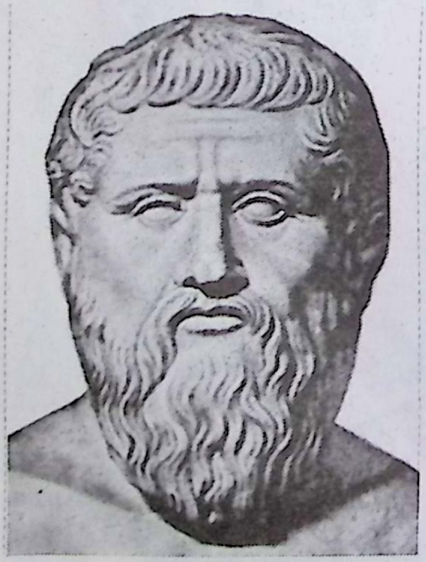
Socrates

Very little is know about the life of Socrates, what we do know was written down by his student, Plato, who wrote down Socrates' discussions with his students. Socrates lived in Athens around 470 to 400 BCE. From what we can see in Plato's dialogues, he was dedicated to his philosophy, getting people to examine their way of thinking, and to explore their ideas. When looking at Plato's dialogues, it is hard to tell how much is Plato, and how much is actually Socrates.

Socrates developed the style called the Socratic Method, which involved asking questions about what others thought. Through the process of intense questioning, Socrates was always able to analyse people's ideas.

Plato

Plato (424/423 BC 348/347 BC), was a Classical Greek philosopher. Together with his teacher, Socrates

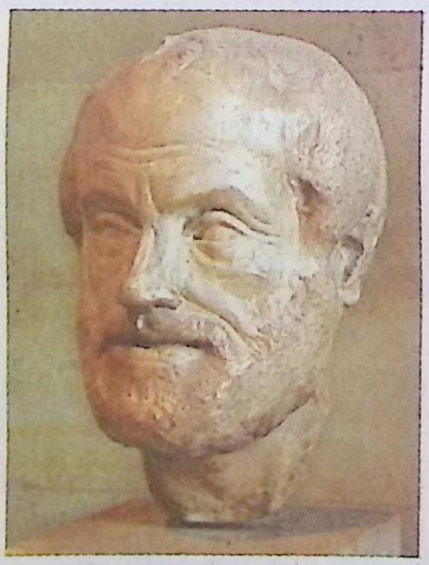


and his student Aristotle, Plato helped to lay the philosophical foundations of Western culture. Plato was also a mathematician, writer of philosophical dialogues, and founder of the Academy in Athens, the first institution of higher learning in the western world. Plato was originally a student of Socrates, and was as much influenced by his thinking as by what he saw as his teacher's unjust death.

Plato's brilliance as a writer and thinker can be witnessed by reading his Socratic dialogues. Some of the dialogues, letters, and other works that are ascribed to him are considered spurious. Interestingly, although there is little question that Plato lectured at the Academy that he founded, the pedagogical function of his dialogues, if any, is not known with certainty. The dialogues have since Plato's time been used to teach a range of subjects, mostly including philosophy, logic, rhetoric, mathematics, and other subjects about which he wrote.

Aristotle

Aristotle was a Greek philosopher, a student of Plato and teacher of Alexander the Great. He wrote on many different subjects, including physics, metaphysics, poetry, theater, music, logic, rhetoric, politics, government, ethics, biology and zoology.



Aristotle (together with Socrates and Plato) is one of the most important philosophers in Western thought. He was one of the first to systematize philosophy and science. His thinking on physics and science had a profound impact on medieval thought, which lasted until the Renaissance, and the accuracy of some of his biological observations was only confirmed in the last century. His logical works contain the earliest formal study of logic known and were not superseded until the late nineteenth century. In the Middle Ages, Aristotelian metaphysics had a profound influence on philosophical and theological thinking in the Islamic and Jewish traditions, and on Christian thought, where its legacy is still felt in Christian theology, for example in Orthodox theology, and especially within the Catholic tradition shaped by scholasticism. All aspects of Aristotle's philosophy continue to be the object of active academic study today.

Though Aristotle wrote many elegant treatises and dialogues (Cicero described his literary style as "a river of gold"), it is thought that the majority of his writings are now lost. They were lost and rediscovered several times, and it is believed that only about one fifth of the original works have survived.

Thales

Thales of Miletos was a pre-Socratic Greek philosopher and one of the Seven Sages of Greece.

