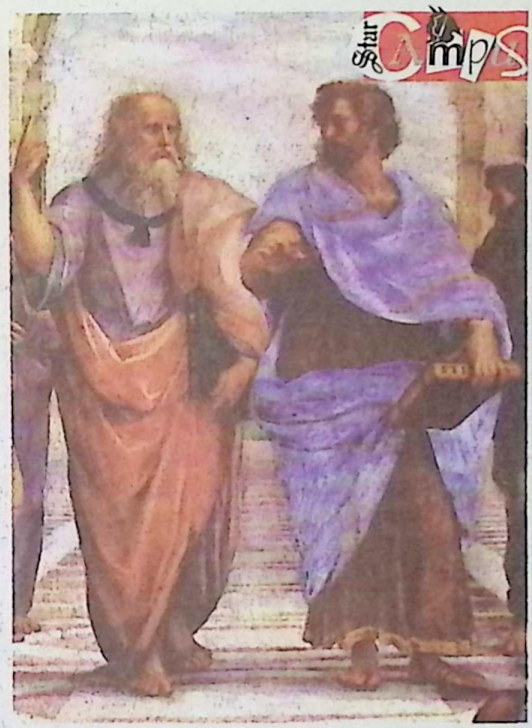
philosophy while Aristotle initiated the empirical tradition, which fosters modern science and technology. Aristotle's writings built up, first ever in history, a comprehensive system of Western philosophy. He influenced all the subsequent philosophical thoughts stretching up to present time. His metaphysics specially influenced medieval Muslim and Christian theology. The scholasticism in the Middle Ages was deeply inspired by the Aristotelian logic. Aristotelianism is still strong in the present world academia. Aristotle was the first to study formal logic and apply it to reasoning. He is called the father of deductive logic. His logic of syllogism is still a set rule for scientific method.

Aristotle was more complete than Plato in the acquisition and possession of knowledge. Plato was no doubt a great man of letters but he never took serious interest in science. He limited himself to the abstract. On the contrary, Aristotle took genuine interest in science. He explored both the abstract and the concrete. In this respect Plato was superseded by Aristotle. Plato's glory was overshadowed by Aristotle, who was more scientifically oriented, and more complete as a scholar. Aristotle was a great scientist who introduced the observational method in science, which the Western civilisation inherits and still follows as the most reliable one. His observational method was applied to the development of biology and physics in particular.

Based on his observation, Aristotle presented a cosmological theory, placing earth at its centre, lying in eternity and changelessness, which, endorsed by Ptolemy, reigned for about two thousand years. His theory of geocentric universe was only challenged by post-Renaissance scientists, who presented a dynamic picture of the universe keeping sun at the centre. Aristotle cannot be blamed for his 'wrong' theory as it was based on observation. He observed with his bare eyes while the post-Renaissance scientists observed with powerful telescope, a technological advantage. In the world of science there is no orthodoxy. The old theory is always replaced by the new one, deemed more consistent with observational data. For example, Newton's gravitational theory has been replaced by Einstein's relativity theory; the fixed-size universe model has been replaced by the expanding universe model thanks to the observations of Edwin Hubble. Aristotle took the first step in scientific observation and others followed him. Credit of advancing science goes to the initiator as well as those who overwhelmed him.

In biological science, his contributions enriched anatomy, embryology and zoology. He first classified the living things, which still carries value. He believed that creatures were arranged in a graded scale of perfection rising from plants up to man, known as 'the scala naturae' or the Great Chain of Being, in which we may find the seed of evolution



theory. He wrote History of Animals, Generation of Animals, and Parts of Animals, which contain his observations and interpretations. He performed original research in the natural sciences. For example, he studied the animals and plants in the island of Lesbos. He dissected animals to find out internal structure. In an experiment he broke open fertilised chicken eggs at intervals to observe when visible organs developed.

Aristotle was enviably intelligent as a student as well as a teacher. In the fashion of Plato's Academy he established his own institution Lyceum, which gave rise to the famous Peripatetic School. He tutored Alexander the Great. And see, Aristotle conquered the world with knowledge and his student Alexander conquered it with political power. Aristotle encouraged Alexander toward eastern conquest and counselled him to be a leader to the Greeks. Aristotle's teaching worked and the world witnessed what happened. Only a great philosopher could produce such a great hero.

Aristotle's endeavours encompassed virtually all facets of intellectual inquiry. He was the compendium of human knowledge while his combined works constitute a virtual encyclopedia of Greek wisdom. Aristotle was probably the first and last person on earth to know everything there was to be known for a human being. Not all ideas of Aristotle eventually survived but what he said and did as a single person was simply astonishing despite all their limitations. He created a scientific tradition and that was his real triumph. Today's science and technology-driven world stands and extends on Aristotelian foundation. I hope my offspring will realise the truth.

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