

CHAPTER XLIII

Socrates (470 - 399 B.C)

Concepts.

Socrates was a reclusive, other-worldly, visionary person who sought answers to all things through his inner self.

His passage from the life of Athens left the imprint of a leading personality, ruled by his “daemon”, the absolute essence of spirit.

His example, his exhortation, his ethos, his knowledge of the aesthetic perfection of nature and the cosmos, awakened in people the feeling of the need for a totally new moral life.

Founder of the “dialectic” and incomparable motivator, Socrates was the universal model of the Moral Man. He discovers within the Laws of Human Reason an entirely new world, which is found in the region beyond the senses and the personal opinion of each.

Socrates gives his last orders to his students,
as he is about to drink the poison.



The great motivator imposes for the first time the distinction between knowledge and opinion. Real knowledge is solely that which is grounded in concepts that derive from the science of Logic.

Opinion, on the contrary, is the everyday standpoint of the simple person about everything that concerns him or others.

Socrates believed in a Universal God, whose manifestation is the cradle of the Absolute Good. He considers the “habits” people have to be monstrous weaknesses, and believes that the only religion for man is to realize and to continuously contemplate The Good.

Wealth, glory, power, bodily strength, the pleasures of the senses, and everything that has to do with material things are passing illusions.

He was the first to discover the incomparable worth of the soul, whose destination is the heavenly society, whose participants are only the Just, the servants of good and the true philosophers.

Deep within his innermost self, he holds the conviction that just as in the cosmic reality, so also in human destiny, a higher Intellect prevails, whose imprint is our own intellect.

Man lives in a perfect and divine world, and though his inner self experiences its sensory part, that which Earthly life grants, his metaphysical heavenly self is part of the One and only God.

Socrates teaches in the Ancient Agora
in the city of Athens.



The prison of Socrates.

