

UNDERSTANDING *the* SELF



IMPORTANT REMINDERS

THESE MATERIALS WILL STRICTLY BE FOR REFERENCE/INSTRUCTION PURPOSES ONLY. THE CONTENTS OF THESE MATERIALS SHOULD NOT IN ANY MANNER BE SHARED OR DISTRIBUTED AS RIGHTS TO ITS ACCESS IS SOLELY GIVEN TO THE REQUESTING CLIENT. PLEASE USE PROPER CITATION/ATTRIBUTION WHEN USING THESE MATERIALS.

Atty. Alden Reuben B. Luna, Ph. L

Table of Contents

Preface.....	iii
Acknowledgment.....	v

Man as a Rational Being

Introduction.....	1
Theories of Knowledge: What can I know?.....	3
Empiricism: To See is to Believe?.....	3
David Hume: First "Impressions" Last.....	5
The Criticism against Empiricism.....	7
Rationalism: : I'll believe what I know.....	9
Plato: The "Perfect" World of Ideas.....	9
The Allegory of the Cave.....	14
The Criticism against Rationalism.....	17
Manson Family.....	17
Activities.....	19

The Dilemma: Are We Really Capable of Knowing?

Introduction	21
Skepticism: The Doubting I.....	22
David Hume	23
The Placebo Effect	24
Mass Hysteria	26
The Criticism against Skepticism.....	27
Reconciliation: Finding the Middle Ground	28
Maurice Merleau-Ponty: I am an Embodied Spirit.....	28
Activities.....	31

Are We Truly Free?

Introduction.....	33
Determinism: Compelled to be Me.....	34
B.F. Skinner.....	36
Baron Henri d'Holbach.....	36
Criticism against Determinism.....	38
Existentialism: I am the Captain of My Ship.....	38
Compromise.....	40
Activities.....	43

04

Humans as Moral Agents

Introduction.....	45
Ethical Relativism: "I" think it is Right.....	46
Cultural Diversity as Basis for Relativism.....	48
Egoism: I know what is Right.....	52
Popular Ethics: So They Say.....	54
The Last Country in the World Where Divorce Is Illegal.....	55
Utilitarianism: It is Useful, Therefore It is Good.....	59
Hacker with a Cause.....	59
Jeremy Bentham.....	64
John Stuart Mill.....	64
The Life of Many over the Life of One.....	65
The Other Side of the Coin.....	66
Activities.....	69

05

Accepting Moral Standards

Introduction.....	71
Aristotle and The Eudaimonian Ethics: The Good Life.....	71
The Eudaimonia.....	72
Human Nature.....	73
The Golden Mean.....	74
Duty and Self-Interest: The Grocer Example.....	75
The Categorical Imperative.....	75
Humanity As An End In Itself.....	78
Activities.....	81

06

Humans vs. Machines

Introduction.....	83
Rene Descartes: Mastery of Nature.....	85
Other Vantage Points: The Danger of Technological Over-dependency.....	86
The Abolition of Man.....	88
Reconstruction: Reality Over Virtual-ity.....	90
Interaction vs. Internet: You are more than an avatar.....	92
The Dark Side of Social Media.....	92
Activities.....	97

IMPORTANT REMINDERS

THESE MATERIALS WILL STRICTLY BE FOR REFERENCE/INSTRUCTION PURPOSES ONLY. THE CONTENTS OF THESE MATERIALS SHOULD NOT IN ANY MANNER BE SHARED OR DISTRIBUTED AS RIGHTS TO ITS ACCESS IS SOLELY GIVEN TO THE REQUESTING CLIENT. PLEASE USE PROPER CITATION/ATTRIBUTION WHEN USING THESE MATERIALS.

07

The Individual and the State

Introduction.....	99
Common Good vs. Individual Liberty: Bayan o Sarili?.....	99
Negative Liberty: I Can do Whatever I Want.....	100
Criticisms against Negative Liberty.....	102
Thomas Hobbes and The Necessity of the State.....	102
Jean Jacques Rousseau and The General Will.....	104
Philippine Constitution: The Bill of Rights.....	105
Activities.....	109

08

Man and the Supernatural

Introduction.....	111
Criticism Against Religion: Why should I Pray?.....	113
Russell's Critique of Religion.....	115
The First Cause Argument.....	116
The Natural Law Argument.....	117
The Argument from Design.....	118
Moral Argument for Deity.....	119
Argument for the Remedying of Injustice.....	119
Russell in a nutshell.....	119
Constructive Response to Russell's Critique of Religion.....	120
The Compromise: Revisiting the Notion of Religiosity.....	123
Activities.....	127
References.....	129

IMPORTANT REMINDERS

THESE MATERIALS WILL STRICTLY BE FOR REFERENCE/INSTRUCTION PURPOSES ONLY. THE CONTENTS OF THESE MATERIALS SHOULD NOT IN ANY MANNER BE SHARED OR DISTRIBUTED AS RIGHTS TO ITS ACCESS IS SOLELY GIVEN TO THE REQUESTING CLIENT. PLEASE USE PROPER CITATION/ATTRIBUTION WHEN USING THESE MATERIALS.