

Philosophers made:

1. A new language
2. Made philosophy and science one area
3. Formulated arguments based on evidence

This is in comparison with the mythology. They are very different from the mythologists. Their biggest contribution is the language. They invented 4 very important words which are:

1. *Cosmos*: the world and the universe
2. *Phusis*: nature (philosophers were called *Phusilcoi* or *Phusilogoi* – those who studied nature)
3. *Arche* – the beginning
4. *Logos* – that which controls it / intelligent reason / get to know about

The pre-Socratic philosophers are from Thales to Plato (cosmologists).

The Milesians started to use reason to be able to solve problems something that the mythologists did not do. They knew Natural Science (the world). Philosophers studied the evidence around them and constructed an argument to prove their ideas. They were intrigued that everything in the world was different but everything had something in common.

The Search of the Arche (the beginning)

Thales was one of the seven wise men of the nation world. He came into conclusion that everything was made out of water. For the first time, he started to question the world around him and is coming up with answers that are not based on the god but science.

The Greeks believed in the four elements: earth, water, fire and air.

Water is the symbol of life and since Thales lived in Egypt, where the river Nile is situated, he believed that water is what everything is made out of.

Anaximander said that the *arche* was the *Apeiron* (the boundless, infinite) in 600BC, the Greeks did not believe in the idea of creation *ex nihilo* (out of nothing) like the Christians. They believed that the world always existed and Anaximander was no exception. The *Apeiron* is a generative force and it generated the world as we know by stages. First it generated the four elements which the Greeks believed in.

The Greeks also believed that the earth was kept stable by opposites (hot - cold and wet – dry)

They believed that when things die, (trees.. etc) they return to the source where they came from. Anaximander's ideas can be linked to the Christian beliefs. The expansion and contraction of air created the world. They thought that everything that changed had one thing that is responsible for the changes that does not change.

The Milesians set out to find that one thing that all the things are made of. It is common to all things, since they have the same characteristics.

Anaximander was responsible for a theory of evolution because their studies had to do with the world and they formulated.

He thought that the world was in the shape of a column surrounded with rings of fire. The area around the column was made out of water. The rings of fire had gaps at intervals where the fire came through and formed the sun and the moon. The water started to evaporate and left behind mud. In this mud there was imprisoned fish which let out 13 year old children from their mouths.

Thales thought that the world had trapdoors and whenever there was a storm, it meant that someone would have left the door open.

Anaximenes said that the world was formed by contraction and expansion of air.

These represent the change from *mythos* to *logos* by searching the *arche* and explaining it not by the capricious acts of the gods but by reason.

Milesians:

- Studied about the *arche*
- Said that when things in the world finish, they return to the source

Xenophenes lived in Turkey, the early philosophers all came from that part of Greece where today Turkey is situated. They were Cosmopolitan centres and therefore there was a lot of traffic. So ideas met and there was a flow of ideas. Xenophenes visited Malta, he was one of the early visitors recorded in Malta. He came because he was interested in fossils and Malta had a reputation of excellence in this.

He is known as the Trampler of Homer; he couldn't stand his works because Xenophenes couldn't accept the idea of Anthropomorphism (means a signing to non-human elements).

He said that if elephants and horses could draw, they'd draw their god, they would turn their god into elephants or horses. Therefore the society will portray their god into what they look like (black, Japanese... etc). He concludes that all this anthropomorphism creates a lot of confusion and this cannot be accepted. So they should ignore this idea and think of god as non-human.

The Greek gods were perverted, so he said that no one would want to adore this kind of god. Xenophenes was not a monotheistic; he believed that a god should be above all other gods (*Zeus*).

Heraclitus was born in Ephesus, around the year 540BC, he was known as the Flux (movement, change) and the Fire. Heraclitus believed that everything in the world is constantly changing. He came up with the phrase:

"Man cannot step into the same river twice for fresh waters will overwhelm him."

were extremely popular, they were sought by politicians because they gave them linguistic capabilities.

Relativism: they ushered in this concept. It means the fact that every person can interpret things according to the way he sees them/ that he feels comfortable with.

“Man is the measure of all things.”

There was no truth with the Sophists. They could have no moral laws.

Gorgias – one of the sophists.

Socrates tried to make people aware that there is a truth but never wrote anything down. Whatever we know is because Plato quotes him.

Socrates was a first- class soldier, but was forgetful. He started out his philosophy by examining the work of the pre Socratics. He wasn't impressed and he was struck by the Sophists philosophy. He decided to turn his attention to this business and got killed. Magistrate charged him of corrupting the youth of Athens. He said one should not believe blindly.

He believed in the universal truth- the same for everybody. So Socrates invented a method by which he taught people. Socrates started out by studying other philosophers. He was into man. The thing that started this interest is when one of his friends visited the Oracle Delphi (stone in a temple with an ear carved). The people spoke to the oracle and communicated with the gods and relay the answer to the person. (The oracle was a woman). He asked her a question: “who is the wisest man in Greece?” the answer was Socrates. He told him that he is the wisest man in Greece. So they started thinking why. So he put the oracle to a test, he asked otherwise people questions like “what is good? What is friendship? What is justice?” and the people did not give good answers. Therefore he is the wisest because he knew that he knew nothing. This was the reason why according to him he was the wisest.

For this reason, he started analyzing man. The aim of Socrates was ethical; the morality of man. He spent days discussing at the Agora (main square). Here he spent his time asking questions to teach them what the truth was. He tried to justify what the Sophists had said. He asked people who were well educated. So he came to conclusion. The method that Socrates used to arrive at the truth is called Socratic Dialectic / Method: set of questions designed to show the person you are questioning a final point. Socrates embarked on this Dialectic giving the impression that he didn't know the answers, that he is ignorant, to put the person at ease and secure. However he knew what the answers were. This is called Socratic irony; game that Socrates used to play that he doesn't know the answers.

The person who was being questioned is called the interlocutor. He used this method to arrive to the truth. He was going through so much trouble because he wanted man to live a good life, but this is not possible if man doesn't know what good is. So he decided to teach the universal truth of good, justice, friendship and beauty. Beauty has certain qualities, if they are there, then they are beautiful.