

The Great Questions

Great Literature as well as great art of all cultures usually deals with one or more of the following questions:

I. What is the nature of the universe--the cosmos?

- Is the universe hostile/beneficent/indifferent to humanity?
- What is the nature of evil? What is the source of evil?
- Why, if God is just, does He allow evil to exist? (the problem of evil)
- Why, if God is just, does He allow the good to suffer? (the problem of pain)

II. What is God's relationship to humans? What is the nature of God?

Does God Exist?

- Is God the creator
- Is God concerned about humanity?
- Is God indifferent to humanity?
- Should humans fear/obey/sacrifice to/pray/propriciate to God?

Is God by inclination an angry God?

- ...a proud God?
- ...a jealous God?
- ...a kind God?

Is God all good?

Does God himself bring evil to
Humanity and cause suffering?

III. What is the nature of human beings?

- Are humans basically good/evil?
- Are people determined or does free will exist?
- Are people more divine than other animals?
- Are people degraded, corrupt--more animal than spirit?
- Do people represent a balance (between two opposing forces)? If so, how is this balance preserved?
- What is a human being's greatest faculty--reason or imagination?
- Do humans have a soul? Can they achieve or be granted immortality? How or under what protocol?
- Are humans in the universe by design? By chance? What leads one to this conclusion?
- What is a human being's basic purpose in life? Is that purpose consistent to all human beings? How are physical/biological needs and abilities considered in this purpose? What about emotional and/or spiritual needs?
- What constitutes the good life for humans?
- How can an individual's and/or a community's life gain significance?
- How can people give value to their lives?
- How can the individual find the greatest satisfaction, completeness, fulfillment?
- How do people properly establish values? Ethics? Morals? What is or should be the basis for this?

IV. What is the relationship of one human to another?

- Are all people to be treated as equals?
- On what basis or using what criteria do we evaluate our fellow human beings?
- Are we basically social or single individuals?
- How are we to establish an orderly existence with other human beings?
- Under what social or governmental system can people most properly function?
- What is the "ideal" or "good" society? How can it be established?
- On what basis would we regulate our association with other people?

