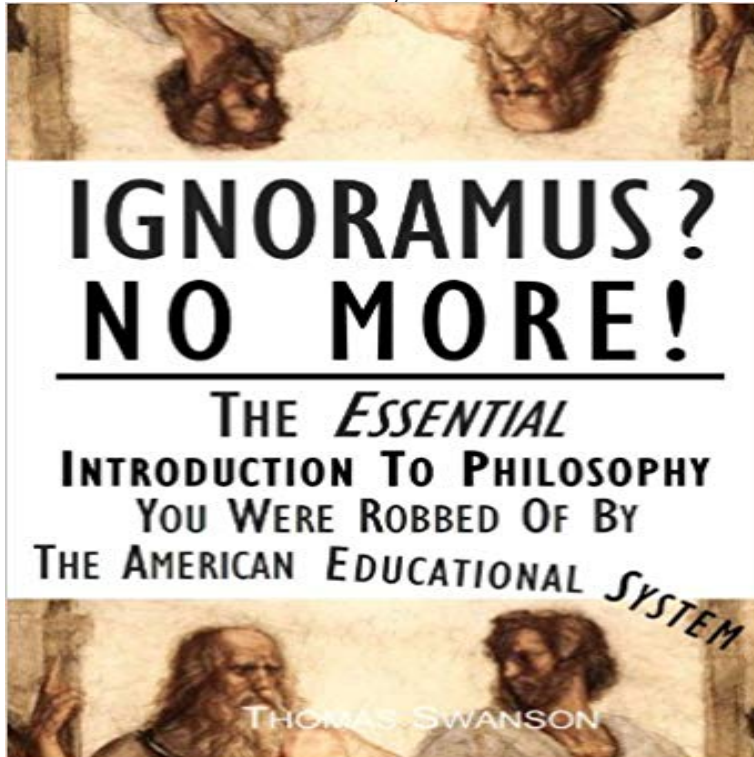


Ignoramus No More: The Essential Introduction To Philosophy You Were Robbed Of By The American Educational System



You know a lot about Plato, right? One of the most influential thinkers in the history of the world? What about Aristotle? You know that whole Earth, Wind, Water, Fire thing? You know where that came from right? And how it actually makes a lot of sense? You know how philosophy was never intended to be a specific subject of study reserved for wierdo academics, but rather a common human practice that should permeate and enrich everyones approach to everything? Sadly, you probably dont. Most Americans probably have to answer no to the majority of these questions. And it is no fault of your own. The American educational system is one of the worst in the world for educating students in philosophy and the history of philosophical thought. Our educational system for the past half of a century and more has gradually lost any grasp of philosophy and has failed to provide any introduction to classical philosophical education to students of the past several generations. What was once the unique privilege of the select few should have been made available to all students in America as education became more universal, but instead Dewey and the pragmatism of the powers that were in the turn of the last century left it by the wayside. But thats a sad and depresing story that we will leave by the wayside. Meanwhile otherwise well-educated, worldly, academically successful Americans remain nearly totally ignorant of some of the greatest intellectual acheivements of human history, and are unaware of radically different ways of understanding and conceptualizing our lives and the world around us. We travel over land and sea and experience new cultures and are thrilled and deepened in many ways by learning of different ways of looking at the world, but we miss that same thrill of travelling across time to different worlds of thought, leaving us somewhat

trapped and narrow in our understanding of the world, the universe, and our place in it.

In this book author Thomas Swanson remedies the little-recognized but very significant deficiency in modern American education. He paints an engaging and historically grounded picture of what philosophical thinking really is, clearing away the many misleading connotations it has taken in modern American society at large. In this book you will: Learn what philosophy really is, beneath the connotations and negative senses it often has in our culture. Begin to develop your personal skill of philosophical thinking. Enjoy an engaging and mind-blowing first pass at the history of classical philosophy from the first philosopher Thales all the way to Aristotle. Be exposed to some of the fundamental habits of mind that lead to overall deeper thinking and intellectual strength. In short, you will learn to wonder from the greatest wonderers in the history of mankind. The book starts off with a surprising description of the philosophical spirit, one that is inspired by wonder. Then we follow five main early Greek philosophers, including Plato and Aristotle, learning from them as they together tackle a central ancient philosophical question. Finally, the practical strategies of philosophical thinking are tied together in a charming conversation between a professor of philosophy and a New York taxi driver, who you'll see become a philosopher before your very eyes! This is an introduction to philosophy and philosophical thinking like no other. Enjoy!

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