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Aristotle

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What is the true meaning of “intelligence”? It would be admirable for oneself to be called as an intelligent man. Although one cannot live eternally but once he did something worthy, his name will last forever. Everyone would have his own meaning of intelligence as well as the standards to evaluate what is more or less intelligent. By the meaning of intelligence, it does not totally mean that one can do anything without making any mistakes, instead it means that one is able to think carefully before doing something. Intelligent man would certainly be accepted and be praiseworthy. Therefore, it is common for most people to desire to be keen but that does not mean everyone could be. As the world is changing, men need to adapt their abilities to get used to the surrounding environment of the different time in order to survive. Aristotle was one of the intelligent men who was the great philosopher in his lifetime, although he had made some mistakes in his theories. He was considered to be the pioneer whose theories and works inspired other philosophers and scientists even though his theories were later disproved and the truth was revealed.

One of the most memorable and famous Greek philosophers¹ who is still being respected in this century is no one else but Aristotle. He played many roles in both science and logic fields. He was not only a philosopher but a polymath also. He was born in Stagira, Greece. He was a student of Plato. Aristotle, who did not only study in the

¹ IEP contributors. “Aristotle.” *Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy*. 31 Jan. 2013.
<<http://www.iep.utm.edu/aristotle/>>

subjects but he made the important contributions to most of them as well. He spent most of his time reading and writing his own theories to use as his teaching books. He was the first person who classified human knowledge into different disciplines such as ethics, politics, physics, biology, and mathematics.² He spent his time studying and set up a lot of theories. He gathered all of his knowledge and experiences of his life in his collection of the books which seems to be called as an encyclopedia which technically was the first encyclopedia in the world. He was very famous at that time even the King Philip of Macedonia asked him for the tutoring of his son, Alexander the Great.³ After Alexander the Great died, he set up an official learning school, The Lyceum⁴ in Athens. Moreover, he gave the name to his followers as Peripatetics.

Some of his observations were believed to be accurate. However, there are two main renowned theories which can be counted as a starting point for the later generation-scientists to make new researches on both of them. Without making the real observations and experiments, Aristotle brought his knowledge to set up his own theories and tried to find the possible and reliable reasons to support them. His theories were once accepted and had the influences to human's attitudes for a long time. Due to the conformity of the principle in Christianity, it is easy for the Christians to believe in his theories. When the time had come, the new scientists like Nicolaus Copernicus and Galileo Galilei took his theories to disprove and found that the theories made up by Aristotle were totally wrong.

² Wikipedia contributors. "Aristotle." *Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia*. 3 Feb. 2013.
<<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aristotle>>

³ Awesomestories contributors. "Aristotle-Teacher of Alexander the Great." *Awesomestories*. 3 Feb. 2013.
<<http://www.awesomestories.com/assets/aristotle---alexanders-great-teacher>>

⁴ Britannica contributors. "The Lyceum." *Encyclopedia Britannica facts matter*. 3 Feb. 2013.
<<http://global.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/34560/Aristotle/33163/The-Lyceum>>

One of the two main renowned theories is about the Composition of the Universe which he believed that our universe composed of four main elements which are earth, air, fire, and water.⁵ Each of the elements also has its own heaviness and causes the four elements to have their own specific gravitational force which lead them to have their proper places in the Universe. Aristotle also believed that the Earth was located in the center of a finite spherical Universe.⁶ This theory happened while he made an observation of the Moon during the time the eclipse had occurred. Later Johann Kepler, the astronomer who set up the theory of “Law of Kepler”⁷ which stated that the moon and the sun were the closest stars to the Earth and orbited the Earth elliptically. As Kepler's theory was based on the modern scientific experiment, it caused the Aristotle's theory to be replaced by the Kepler's theory. The second theory is about the Law of Falling. He believed that the object with a heavier in weight would naturally falls much faster than a lighter object.⁸ Most of Aristotle's theories are to be agreed with the common sense of human but not of the modern scientists' sense who used the modern technology to prove the former theories. Due to the modern scientific experiment, the new scientist like, Galileo Galilei once made the famous experiment at the Leaning Tower of Pisa. After getting the result, he declared his Law of Falling bodies that without caring about the weights and the shape of the objects when we released the objects simultaneously, they

⁵ Aether contributors. “Aristotle's Physics.” *Aether*. 3 Feb. 2013.

<<http://aether.lbl.gov/www/classes/p10/aristotle-physics.html>>

⁶ Patrick Miller. “The Center of the Galaxy.” *Solarsystem*. 3 Feb. 2013.

<http://solarsystem.nasa.gov/scitech/display.cfm?ST_ID=225>

⁷ Jerry Coffey. “Johannes Kepler's Law.” *Universetoday*. 4 Feb. 2013.

<<http://www.universetoday.com/75901/johannes-kepler/>>

⁸ Vias contributors. “The Motion of Falling Objects.” *Vias*. 4 Feb. 2013.

<http://www.vias.org/physics/bk1_05_01.html>

will fall to the floor almost at the same rate of time. It is different from what Aristotle had believed because at that time he did not take the gravitational force in his calculation.

Until now, there is only one-third of his original works which existed and were used as the teaching instruments. Some of his theories had been proved to be wrong but it does not mean that all of his theories would be unreliable. However, he is the first philosopher who came up with some of the first thoughtful theories on the matter and living things. He classified the living things into two main kingdoms which are vertebrates and invertebrates.⁹ And without any disprove, this theory is agreeable among other scientists and people until now. This led him to be considered as the Father of Biology.¹⁰

In conclusion, Aristotle is considered to be one of the great philosophers in that period of his time even though there are some mistakes in his theories but it had once been accepted by the people in his lifetime. By looking at his mistakes which had occurred as a starting point, the new scientists sparked their ideas to reprove it in order to get the newest and the most correct theories which last till today. Without him, there might not have the theories which can be learned today.

⁹ Alisa D. "Classification of Living things." *Richmondeducation*. 4 Feb. 2013.
<<http://blog.richmond.edu/openwidelookinside/archives/3250>>

¹⁰ Alegra Bartzat. "Father of Biology-Aristotle." *Bellaonline*. 4 Feb. 2013.
<<http://www.bellaonline.com/articles/art14442.asp>>