THE WORLD EXPLORED, THE WORLD SUFFERED

The Exeter Lectures

The Exeter Lectures is the first part of a trilogy and is a work of philosophical/ educational fiction. Its fictional component is composed of a middle-aged Romeo-Juliet drama which ends with two deaths in Venice and a youthful adventure that takes Robert, the narrator from trauma in South Africa to a teacher training institute in England where he discovers Philosophy and befriends an alcoholic lecturer who had once studied under Wittgenstein.

The educational component is composed of a series of lectures on the philosophy of religion, psychoanalysis, aesthetics, ethics, the philosophy of natural science, human science and mathematics, philosophical psychology, political science, philosophy of education. Three different lecturers deliver a series of lectures, the educational intention of which is to introduce the reader to the world of Philosophy and the world of Education seen through the eyes of Socrates, Plato, Aristotle, Descartes, Hobbes, Hume, Hegel, Marx, Tolstoy, Kant, Schopenhauer, Freud, William James, Wittgenstein Heidegger, Sartre, Merleau- Ponty, Arendt, Quine, Cavell, Paul Ricoeur, Brian O Shaughnessy, R. S. Peters, Peter Winch, Paul Hirst, Hudson, Adrian Stokes, T S Eliot, Julian Jaynes.

The book attempts to take the reader on a philosophical journey from curiosity to commitment and it is hoped that the trilogy will serve as a general introduction to Philosophy for all who are curious about the eternal Philosophical questions such as "What is the nature of Reality?" "Is God merely an idea in our minds?" "Is the soul a function of the body?" What is Justice?" "What is ethics?" "What is the role of Education in the life of the individual and society?" How should we characterize the feeling of the sublime?" "How shall we characterize the feeling of the beautiful?" "What properties do great works of Art possess?" What is the philosophical role of Psychoanalysis?" "How shall we philosophically characterize the role of language in our understanding of the world?" "What is the meaning of life?"



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Michael R. D.

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