



FINAL INTERPRETATION EXERCISE

A.U.B.
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C.S. 205
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OPEN BOOKS – OPEN NOTES – OPEN MINDS

REMEMBER:

- A. **QUALITY IS MORE CONVINCING THAN QUANTITY.....**
 - B. **Don't 'talk' when you write, present a systematical coherent analysis according to the instructions.....**
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Answer TWO questions ONLY:

I. **"MANS ESSENCE in his ORIGINAL CONSITION".** (Al-Ghazali)

1. Analyze briefly Al-Ghazali's concept of the original condition of MAN as "created in blank simplicity", with particular reference to what this implies in relation to MAN's possibilities/limitations to knowledge and to the means and/or methods to acquire knowledge.
 2. Compare critically with Augustine's and/or Dante's concept of the original condition of MAN.
 3. Is Enkidu's "original condition" comparable? Explain.
 4. Evaluate and state your OWN opinion.
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OR II. **JUSTICE**

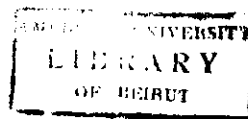
1. Analyze the concept of justice from the point of view of the chorus in Oedipus, or Zeus in the Odyssey.
 2. Comment on this view from Plato's or Aristotle's standpoint.
 3. Conclude and state your opinion.
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OR III. **Guidance = Virgil and/or Beatrice?**

"He (Virgil) says he'll bear me company until I shall be there Beatrice also is, and after that he needs must say farewell".

(Dante, Purgatory, XXIII)

1. Interpret these lines (allegorically?!) with particular emphasis on what each Virgil and Beatrice symbolize (or stand for), their function and role in guiding Dante on his journey, their relationship and their limitations.
 2. Comment on the results of your interpretation from the point of view of Ibn Rushd. Does he agree with this allegorical meaning? Why or Why not?
 3. Conclude and state your OWN opinion.
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OR IV. **Indicative Titles?**

1. Select any three (3) texts (one (1) from each unit) and show how the title relates to the thesis of the text.
 2. Which is the most "indicative" title in your opinion? Why?
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OR V. **THE TWO CAVE SIMILES** (Plato and Aristotle)

1. Compare very briefly these 2 similes, by pointing out the similarities and the differences: with regard, in particular, to the following points:
 - a. nature and meaning of the original dwelling place beneath the earth.
 - b. Cause and motive of the ascent out of the cave.
 - c. Meaning and function of the upper world (outside of the cave), or: the result of the ascent.
 2. Draw your conclusion concerning the two authors' different outlook on the world. Their concepts of man and god, truth and knowledge. Which is your favourite? Why?
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OR VI. **THE BROKEN GLASS**

"When a man comes to know that the glass of his naive beliefs is broken. This is a breakage not to be repaired by patching or by assembling of fragments. The glass must be melted over again in the furnace for a new start, and out of it another fresh vessel formed." (Al-Ghazali, p. 27)

1. Interpret the above statement in its context by elaborating, first, what "to know that" means; second, why the glass was broken, and finally, if and how it has been melted once again.
(Base your analysis on the text and refer to it).
 2. Discuss the difference between the 'old glass' and the 'fresh vessel' by checking in particular what remained the same and what has been transformed.
 3. Could the same simile be applied to the transformation of Augustine? Show how and why or why not (Quote references).
 4. Draw your OWN personal conclusions.
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GOOD LUCK !