

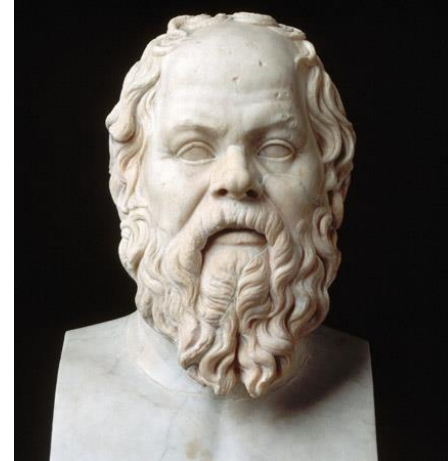
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Quote #29

ΣΟΚΡΑΤΕΣ

“The only true
wisdom is in knowing
you know nothing.”



Socrates (470/469 – 399 BC) was a **classical Athenian philosopher** credited as one of the **founders of Western philosophy**. He is an enigmatic figure known chiefly through the accounts of classical writers, especially the writings of his students **Plato** and **Xenophon** and the work of his contemporary playwright **Aristophanes**. **Plato's dialogues** are among the most comprehensive accounts of Socrates to survive from antiquity, though it is unclear the degree to which Socrates himself is hidden behind his 'best disciple', Plato. Through his portrayal in Plato's dialogues, Socrates has become renowned for his contribution to the field of ethics, and it is this Platonic Socrates who lends his name to the concepts of Socratic irony and the Socratic method, a.k.a. **maieutic** or **elenchus**. The latter remains a commonly used tool in a wide range of discussions, and is a type of pedagogy in which a series of questions is asked not only to draw individual answers, but also to encourage fundamental insight into the issue at hand, thus developing **critical thinking**. This method, which is typical of **Anglo-Saxon didactics** (see, for example, group discussions known as college proseminars and university seminars) also lies at the core of the Personal English method. Socrates's ideas were more appreciated after his lifetime than when he was alive – fostering free-thinking in a hierarchical system such as the Athenian society was in effect seen as potentially disruptive, and Athenian statesmen sentenced him to death by drinking **poison hemlock** on the charge of **corrupting the young**.

Click on the Picture for a **VIDEO** on Socrates