

The Big Questions

Who Am I?

- This is a fundamental question that every human being needs to attempt to answer.
- Am I an animal that has evolved just like all the rest of the animals we find around us?
- Am I different from the pets I own? If I am fundamentally similar since my DNA is about 90% the same as a cat? If we are so similar in the basic building blocks of our cells, what makes me special?



The Big Questions

Who Am I?

- Does my life go on when I die or is my life only as viable as the offspring I have given birth to? If I have no children, does my life simply end and that is all there is?
- Do I need to have a community around me to give me my identity?
- Or is my identity given me by something else? Given to me by God?



The Big Questions

What Is Real?

- What is meant by the term real?
- Do I have to be able to touch something for it to be real?
- If I cannot touch it, can the sun be real?
- Is history real?
- How do you know for certain that your body is real? Could it be your imagination?
- If you can imagine something or dream something that seems as though it is very real, is it? Or is a figment of my imagination or a dream just so much unreal stuff?
- Is darkness real? Or is it a measurement of the absence of light?



The Big Questions

Is there a
God? Does
it matter?

- Is God real? How do I come to know him/her/it?
- Is this God dependent on my idea of him to exist?
- Is there a star in the sky which is actually us seeing God?
- Does God interact with the world in which we live?
- What difference does it make to me if God exists?
- Which religion is the “correct” one? Are they not all the same?
- Does God speak to us?



The Big Questions

How do we
know
anything?

- I know something if I experience it. For example, I fell to the ground like everyone else falls to the ground. Gravity must exist.
- I know something if I am logically convinced of its truth. For example, I can see the ruins of ancient Rome. I was not there, but those who have studied this have discovered that the Roman culture existed.
- Is faith a viable avenue to the arrival of truth?



The Big Questions

How do we
know
anything?

- What does it mean to know something is true? What if a new discovery proves that the thing I thought was real, is just an imaginary creation?
- How do we learn anything? What does it mean to go from ignorance to insight?



The Big Questions

What is my
mind? Is it
my soul,
too?

- Is my mind something more than the neural tracks that have been formed between cells in my brain?
- Why does it seem like I can be outside of myself watching myself think or do an activity?
- How does my mind function? What are memories? How are those memories stored in my mind?
- How is it that some people simply are more capable of using their mental capacity than others are? What makes one “smart”?



The Big Questions

What is my
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- Religion speaks of a soul within the human being, what is a soul? Is it the equivalent of my mind?
- What makes me capable of experiencing joy? Is it a construct of my mind or is it something else?



The Big Questions

Is there a
universal
“ought”?

- If I speak of morality, what does that word mean?
- Are there such things as right and wrong ways of acting and thinking?
- If I am confused, does that make me a bad person?
- If something is wrong for me, is it wrong for you? Who gets to say?





