

5/03/2022

Socrates had many disciples, and the greatest of these was Plato. Plato wrote many books which have come down to us, and it is from these books that we know a great deal of his master, Socrates. Evidently governments do not like people who are always trying to find out things; they do not like the search for truth. The Athenian Government – this was just after the time of Pericles – did not like the method of Socrates, and they held a trial and condemned him to death. They told him that if he promised to give up his discussion with people and changed his ways; they would let him off. But he refused to do so, and preferred the cup of poison, which brought death, to giving up what he considered his duty. When on the point of death, he addressed his accusers and judges and said:

“If you propose to acquit me on condition that I abandon my search for truth, I will say: ‘I thank you, O Athenians, but I will obey God, who, as I believe, set me this task, rather than you; and as long as I have breath and strength I will never cease from my occupation with philosophy. I will continue the practice of accosting whomever I meet and saying to him. ‘Are you not ashamed of setting your heart on wealth and honours while you have no care for wisdom and truth and making your soul better?’ I know not what death is – it may be a good thing, and I am not afraid of it. But I do know what it is a bad thing to desert one’s post, and I prefer what may be good to what I know to be bad.”

## Questions

1. Why was Socrates condemned to death by his government?
2. On what condition was the government willing to let him go?
3. What was Socrates’ reaction to that offer?
4. What did Socrates consider his duty to the people?

[01]

## QUESTION # 01

Why was Socrates condemned to death by his government?

### Answer

Socrates was a great philosopher who was at his hunt for truth all the time. Not only was he seeking truth on his own but was also preaching truth to people. Government wanted him to give up his search for knowledge and preaching of philosophy to people, but he refused and was condemned to death by his government.

## QUESTION # 02

On what condition was the government willing to let him go?

### Answer

The government was willing to let him go if on the condition if he stopped preaching truth to

to people ; and gave up on seeking truth ; and stopped urging people to search for truth.

### QUESTION # 3

What was Socrates reaction to that offer?

#### Answer

Socrates outrightly rejected the proposed offer of the government. He refused to give up his search for truth on one hand and his urging people to seek truth on other. He preferred death over accepting the proposal of the government.

### QUESTION # 4

What did Socrates consider his duty to the people?

#### Answer

Socrates considered his duty to the people to be preaching

Date: \_\_\_/\_\_\_/2020

M T W T F S

truth and philosophy to them. He also considered that urging people to look for the truth is his duty.