

Define philosophy. What is its relationship with religion.

Ans:-

Definition:-

Philosophy is a broad field of inquiry that seeks to understand fundamental questions about nature of reality, knowledge, morality, existence and the human experience.

Philosophy is the criticism of the universe for the benefit of man.

(Allama Iqbal)

Philosophy involves thinking, critical analysis and argumentation to explore profound questions and problems.

"Philosophy is not a body of doctrine but an activity"

Karl Popper

Philosophy and Religion:

Exploring the boundaries of belief and reason.

The relationship between philosophy and religion is multi-faceted and has evolved over centuries.

Religious philosophers

- Al-Ghazali
- St. Augustine
- Thomas Aquinas
- Iqbal

Secular

philosophers

Karl Marx
Friedrich Nietzsche
Bertrand Russell
Ayn Rand

Religion
and
philosophy

1) The Ancient roots: where philosophy meets ^{the} divine

In the dawn of human consciousness, philosophy and religion intertwined as twin torchbearers of

knowledge and meaning. Ancient thinkers, such as pre-Socratic philosophers in Greece, ventured into the realm of Divine.

Everything is full of
gods

(Thales)

The early thinkers believed that natural world was imbued with divinity, laying a groundwork for connection between philosophy and religion.

Philosopher	Quotation
● Pythagoras	Number is the ruler of forms and ideas, and the cause of gods and daemons.
● Thomas Aquinas	To one who has faith, no explanation is necessary. To one without faith no explanation is possible.

2) Faith and Reason: Bridging the chasm

The interplay between religion and philosophy has been a central concern in both fields.

The philosophers have grappled with the challenge of reconciling the demands of faith with rational inquiry intrinsic to faith philosophy.

"Faith is to believe what you do not see; the reward of faith is to see what you believe"

(St. Augustine)

The quote highlights the profound link between understanding and faith.

Al-Ghazali addressed this dichotomy by distinguishing

between "Ilm-al-haduri" and "Ilm-al-hasuti". He argued faith provides intuitive knowledge, reason supplements this through critical inquiry. (Tahafut-Al-Falsifah)

3) Philosophical Underpinnings of theism and atheism

Theism

- Belief in divine Being

- Teleological Argument

- Moral Argument

- Faith based ethics

Atheism

- Absence of belief

- Scientific Naturalism

- Argument of Evil

- Secular Ethics

4) Philosophical Theodicy:

Wrestling the problem of evil

The problem of evil has been at the heart of philosophical theodicy. Philosophers have long grappled with the task of reconciling presence of evil with the presence of loving God.

"Is he willing to prevent evil but not able? then is he

impotent. Is he able, but not

willing? then is he malevolent.

Is he both able and willing?

Whence then is evil?"

David Hume

5) Contemporary Perspectives:-

Contemporary Perspectives

on religion and philosophy

encompass a wide range

of viewpoints and debates

In this landscape, philosophers and scholars explore topics like religious pluralism, secularism, and role of technology in shaping our understanding of spirituality and metaphysics.

Conclusion-

In grand tapestry of human thought, the relationship between philosophy and religion remains captivating ever evolving narrative. It is journey marked by profound questions, intense debates and unyielding quest for understanding this world.

"Philosophy is at once the most sublime and most trivial of human pursuits."

William James