

*“Philosophical Thought Collection”*

Neil Beers

The bulk of my collection has been assembled over the past three years in the course of my undergraduate study of Political Science and Philosophy at Michigan State University; and through working in a local bookstore, Gibson's in East Lansing. The books serve as a supplement to the studies I am undertaking in college and to feed my hunger to understand the evolution of human thought. The books in my collection are numerous and diverse, but they all join together to expound a body of philosophical thought that represents the ages. Through time, many different cultures and peoples desired to know man's place in the universe and the nature of the world around us, proposing theories and scripting their ideas to unravel the mysteries of life. For my personal quest, I have assembled these texts in order for me to ponder their ideas as I form my own. These authors accepted a challenge to gain knowledge and understanding of the world we live in. In essence they accepted the challenge to practice philosophy.

At 38a of Plato's Apology, Socrates states that "the unexamined life is not worth living." As a firm believer in Socrates' tenet I resolved to examine life with the eagerness and zeal Socrates had 2500 years ago. To further my goal I held onto all the texts I use in my classes, I picked up interesting books from the bookstore I work at, and basically added to my bookshelves anything that could add to my knowledge of human thought. I foresee that my collection will grow far larger for I have not even cracked the surface of the rich contributions that men have made to philosophy throughout the ages.

My books represent a portion of the rich contributions I spoke of above. They introduced me to some answers to the questions that intrigue us all such as; what is the purpose of life?, how should man live among one another?, and what is our place in the universe? I cannot yet rest for I have much more to read and learn and when I think that I have sufficiently trained myself I may compose a work to join my teachers in the quest to understand the complexities of life. I feel that it will be a great task to do and will work diligently, following the same path I am now on, to collect works that attempt to address philosophical issues and to reflect back upon the ones I already own. One day I can offer my work as a tribute to those who have shaped my thought and add understanding to the mysteries of life.