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HOW TO THINK LIKE A PHILOSOPHER



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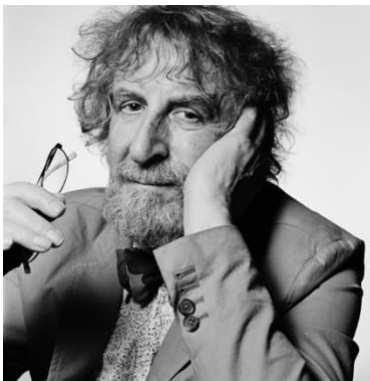
PETER CAVE

BLOOMSBURY

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PETER CAVE, philosopher, lecturer, public speaker, read philosophy at University College London, then at King's College, Cambridge, lecturing for many years at New York University London and the Open University.



Peter is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts, Patron of Humanists UK, Honorary Member of Population Matters; and, for many years, member, of the Council of the Royal Institute of Philosophy and Chair of Humanist Philosophers.

Author photograph ©Richard Piercy

His books include *Beginner's Guides to Humanism*, to *Philosophy*, and to *Ethics*, and *The Big Think Book: Discover Philosophy Through 99 Perplexing Problems*.

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Chapter Titles

- 1 Lao Tzu: The Way to Tao
- 2 Sappho: Lover
- 3 Zeno of Elea: Tortoise Backer, Parmenidean Helper
- 4 Gadfly: aka 'Socrates'
- 5 Plato: Charioteer, Magnificent Footnote Inspirer -
'Nobody Does It Better'
- 6 Aristotle: Earth-Bound, Walking
- 7 Epicurus: Gardener, Curing the Soul,
Ably Assisted by Lucretius
- 8 Avicenna: Flying Man, Unifier
- 9 Descartes: With Princess, With Queen
- 10 Spinoza: God-Intoxicated Atheist
- 11 Leibniz: Monad Man
- 12 Bishop Berkeley, 'That Paradoxical Irishman':
Immaterialist, Tar-Water Advocate
- 13 David Hume: The Great Infidel or *Le Bon David*
- 14 Kant: Duty Calls, Categorically
- 15 Schopenhauer: Pessimism With Flute
- 16 John Stuart Mill: Utility Man,
With Harriet, Soul-Mate
- 17 Søren Kierkegaard: Who?
- 18 Karl Marx: Hegelian, Freedom-Fighter
- 19 Lewis Carroll: Curiouser and Curiouser
- 20 Nietzsche: God-Slaying Jester, Trans-Valuer
- 21 Bertrand Russell: Radical, Aristocrat
- 22 G. E. Moore: Common-Sense Defender,
Bloomsbury's Sage
- 23 Heidegger: Hyphenater
- 24 Jean-Paul Sartre: Existentialist, Novelist, French
- 25 Simone Weil: Refuser and Would-Be Rescuer
- 26 Simone de Beauvoir: Situated, Protester, Feminist
- 27 Ludwig Wittgenstein: Therapist
- 28 Hannah Arendt: Controversialist, Journalist?
- 29 Iris Murdoch: Attender
- 30 Samuel Beckett: *Not I*

Extracts:

To use an example derived from Plato: if pleasurable satisfactions are all that are ultimately valuable, buy some itching powder, apply the powder and then scratch — and delight in those scratching pleasures. Repeat, repeat...

In the 1960s, Samuel Beckett was crossing Regent's Park, London, off to Lord's Cricket. He noted the beautiful blue sky, the greens of the trees, the company of his friends. One remarked, 'Yes, on a day like this, it's good to be alive.' Beckett's reply: 'Well, I wouldn't go as far as that.'

Simone de Beauvoir reported how Simone Weil wanted to feed the world. When she (Beauvoir) replied that the goal is for people to find meaning in their existence, Weil replied, 'It is easy to see that you have never gone hungry.'