THE NIETZSCHE CHEAT SHEET

WHAT IDEAS DOES NIETZSCHE CONNECT WITH?

Nietzsche connects most strongly with concepts of ignorance and open-mindedness.

In particular, his teachings work well to help explain why people with a closed-mind, who only follow authority and the past, are likely to come into conflict with those who value evidence and changing their opinions to adapt to what they can observe.

Remember that ignorance often leads to conflict because:

- People who are ignorant get LOCKED into a sense of RIGHTEOUSNESS.
- People who are ignorant feel SECURITY from NOT being challenged.

WHAT DID NIETZSCHE SAY?

"God is dead": God, as a justification for people’s actions and morality, can no longer be relied upon. We must reject actions, values and meaning that people subscribe to the name of ‘God’.

The death of god “unchained the earth from the sun” and means that it is now time to “move beyond good and evil”.

We have invented “lines, planes, causes and effects, motion and rest, form and content”. However, just because humans have invented these “conditions of life”, this does not prove their existence and we need to be aware that the world we have created “might include error”.

Historically, people have relied upon “strength of knowledge”, which is merely the length of time something has been believed (the “age” of incorporation) and the number of people who believe it (the “degree” of incorporation).

What was needed instead was “A Gay Science”, a science of the SELF which views “truth as experiment”.

WHERE CAN THIS BE SEEN IN LIFE OF GALILEO?

The church finds security in the belief that the “eye of the creator” falls upon earth “alone”, and where the “See of St Peter” has positioned itself as “the centre of the world”, and thus the universe at large. Galileo in turn challenges the leaders of the church, seeing them as “self-interested rulers” who “know the truth” but “call it a lie”. The church actively “disapproves” of any “such doctrines as run counter to the Scriptures”, and when faced with a scientific challenge to their beliefs, the church chooses not to put its faith in “reason”, but instead call upon “the theologians to see how they can straighten out the...heavens”.

Galileo: “Today mankind can write in its diary: Got rid of Heaven.” p24

The Pope: “they have placed their faith in a brass ball they call a compass [i.e. science], not in God...God anyhow is no longer necessary to them...” p92

Galileo: “...to believe in the authority of Aristotle is one thing, tangible facts are another...I ask you to go by the evidence of your eyes... Truth is born of the times, not of authority... pp41-43