

THE GREAT QUESTIONS

Great literature of all cultures usually deals with one or more of the following questions:

I. What is the nature of the universe—the cosmos ?

Is the universe hostile / beneficent / indifferent to humanity ?
What is the nature of evil ? What is the source of evil ?
Why, if God is good, does He allow evil to exist ? (The Problem of Evil)
Why, if God is just, does He allow the good to suffer ? (The Problem of Pain)

II. What is God's relationship to humans ?

Does God exist ?
Is God the Creator ?
Is God concerned about humanity ?
Is God indifferent toward humanity ?
Should humans fear / obey / love / sacrifice to /
propitiate / pray to God ?

What is the nature of God ?

Is God (gods) basically: an angry God ? a proud
God ? a jealous God ? a kind God ?
Is God all good ?
Does God Himself bring evil to humanity and cause
suffering ?

III. What is the nature of human beings ?

Are humans basically good or evil ?
Are people determined or do we have free will ?
Are people noble—more divine than animal ? or
Are people degraded, corrupt—more animal than spirit ?
Are people a balance ? If so, how is the balance preserved ?
What is the human being's greatest faculty ? reason ? imagination ?
Do humans have a soul ? Can they achieve immortality ? How ?
Are humans in the universe by design or by chance ? If by design, why ?
What is a human's basic purpose in life ? Is there a purpose ?
To save the human soul ?
To find happiness ? If so, what is happiness and how are we to achieve it ?
What is the "good" life for humans ? How can life gain significance ?
How can people give value to their lives ?
How can people find their greatest satisfaction, completeness, fulfillment ?
How do people establish values, ethics, morals ? What are their bases ?

IV. What is the relationship of one human to another ?

How are we to treat people ? Are all people to be treated as equals ?
On what basis do we / should we evaluate our fellow humans ?
Are we basically social animals or anti-social ones ?
How are we to establish an orderly existence with other humans ?
What is the "ideal" or "good" society ? How can it be established ?
Under what social system can people best flourish ?
On what base should we regulate our association with other people ?