Socrates Divine Sign: Religion, Practice, And Value In Socratic Philosophy

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According to Socrates’ story, then, he must behave like the philosophical gadfly in order to pursue Apollo’s mission, rousing the lazy horse that is Athens from her intellectual laziness and arrogance by exhibiting his own ignorance and reminding others of theirs. The practice called “Socratic Method” in American law schools has become notorious because of a tendency (perhaps only among poor practitioners) to humiliate students by demanding that they publicly answer questions about legal reasoning until they fail. A thorough interpretation of Socrates’ defense speech is C.D.C. Reeve’s Socrates in the Apology (Hackett 1989). Pre-Socratics or pre-Socratic philosophers were the earliest Western philosophers, active during the fifth and sixth centuries B.C.E. in ancient Greece. These philosophers tried to discover principles that could uniformly, consistently, and comprehensively explain all natural phenomena and the events in human life without resorting to mythology. The pre-Socratic style of thought is often called natural philosophy, but their concept of nature was much broader than ours, encompassing spiritual and mythical as well as aesthetic and physical elements. They brought human thought to a new level of abstraction; raised a number of central questions of ontology, which are still relevant today; and cultivated the human spirit so as to open our eyes to the eternal truth.

Islam literally means surrender to God’s Will. As a Prophet of God Socrates was devoted to this and is therefore a “Muslim” (in meaning) in his heart. In keeping with the universal and inclusive character of Islam this means that Greek people are also brothers in faith and must be respected.