

Foolishness of God's Wisdom

1 Corinthians 1:18-2:5

Once Upon
a Time in
China
II

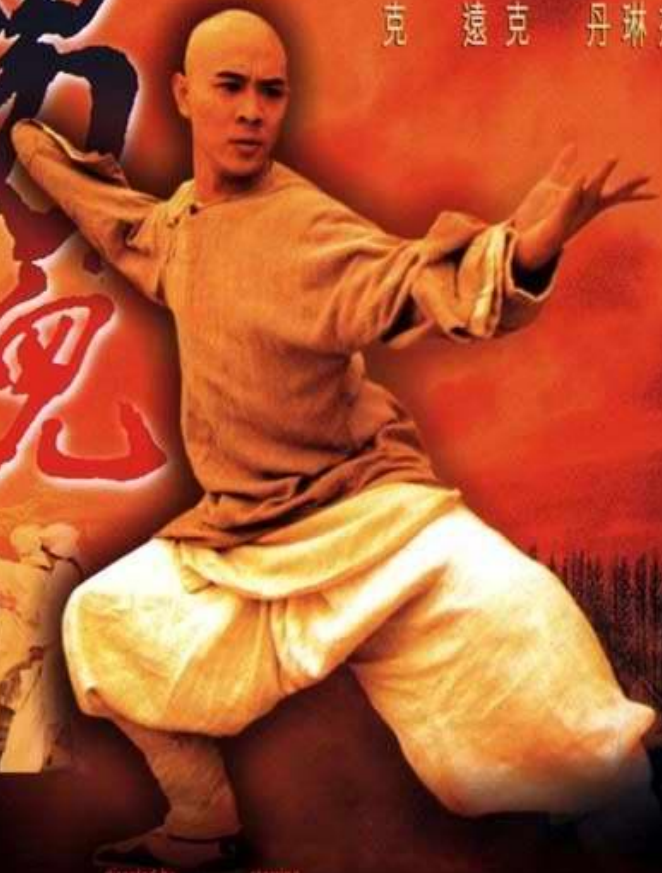
黃飛鴻

之二

DVD
VIDEO

李連杰
關之琳
甄子丹
徐克
徐克
吳思遠
徐克

當男兒
自強



produced by
Tsui Hark Ng See-Yuen

directed by
Tsui Hark

starring
Jet Li Rosamund Kwan Donnie Yen

Licensed by
寰亞電影發行有限公司
MEDIA ASIA DISTRIBUTION LTD.
© 1993 STAR TO FILMS ENTERTAINMENT. All Rights Reserved.

DC DOLBY
DIGITAL
Poly Surround 5.1

II
Not Suitable for Children

Distributed by
星洲特備發行(香港)有限公司
MEGA STAR VIDEO DISTRIBUTION (HK) LTD.

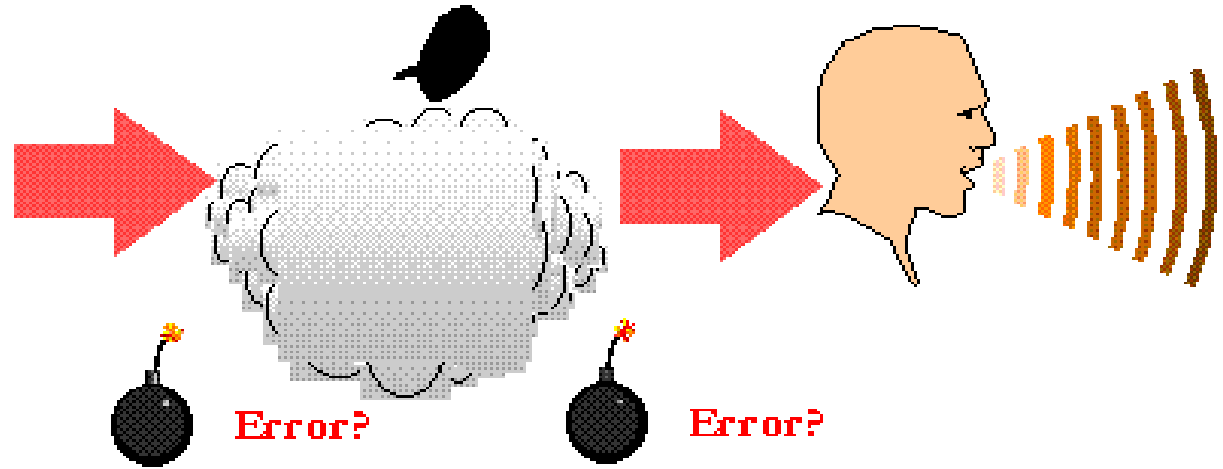
MPA
RATED
PG-13
PARENTS STRONGLY CAUTIONED
Some Material May Be Inappropriate for Children Under 13





Perception

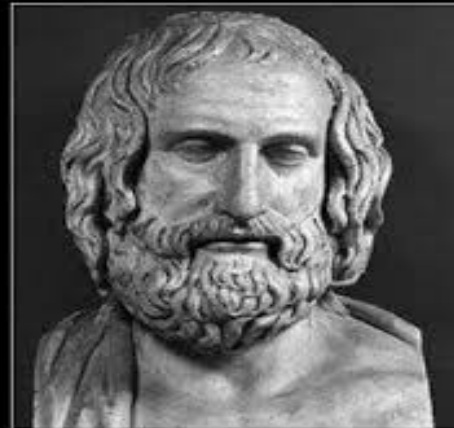
Representation of Knowledge



Reality

Personal Knowledge

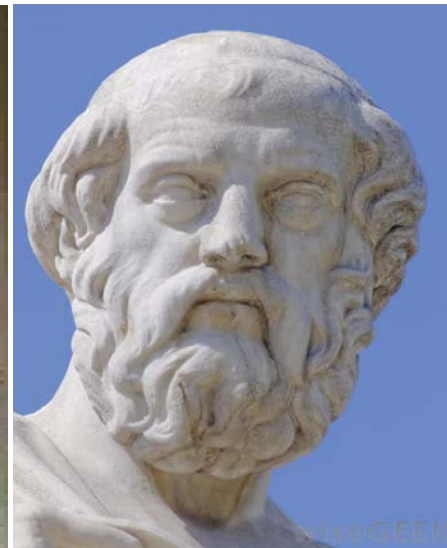
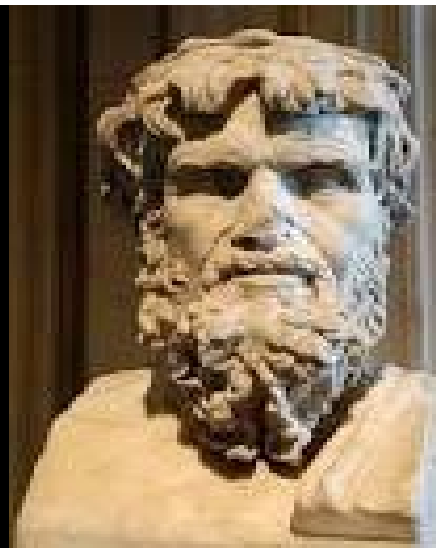
Linguistic Expression of the Knowledge



Protágoras

Filósofo y hermano de Isócrates de Platón

www.derechodivulgacion.es



SOPHIST (wise men), Greek philosophers ³

9 for I do not wish to seem as if I would terrify you by my letters.

10 For they say, "His letters are weighty and strong, but his personal presence is unimpressive and his speech contemptible."

2 Corinthians 10:9, 10

8 There were many lamps in the upper room where we were gathered together. 9 And there was a young man named **Eutychus** sitting on the window sill, sinking into a deep sleep; and as Paul kept on talking, he was overcome by sleep and fell down from the third floor and was picked up dead. 10 But Paul went down and fell upon him, and after embracing him, he said, "Do not be troubled, for his life is in him."

Acts 20:8-10

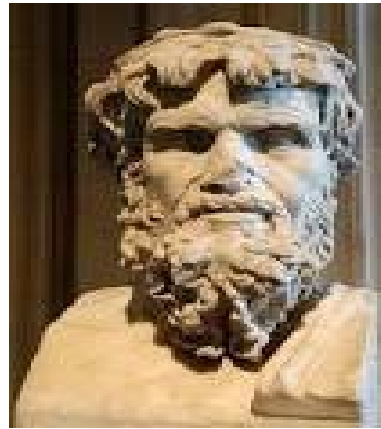
3 major arguments

1. “So you think the gospel is a form of *Sophia* (wisdom)? How foolish can you get? Look at the message; it is based on the story of a crucified Messiah. Who in the name of wisdom would have dreamed that up? Only God is so wise as to be so “foolish” (1:18–25);
(means: content of the Gospel)
2. “Furthermore, look at its recipients. Yourself! Who in the name of wisdom would have chosen you to be the new people of God?” (1:26–31);
(chosen people of God)
3. “Finally, remember my own preaching. Who in the name of wisdom would have come in such weakness? Yet look at its results” (2:1–5).
(preacher: effective ministry)

**Apatheia (Gk. ἀπάθεια)
‘impassibility’ or ‘passionlessness’),**

‘God is good and beautiful and happy and is in that which is most beautiful and best. If then “He descends to men” it involves change for him, and change from good to bad, from beautiful to ugly, from happiness to unhappiness, from what is best to what is worst. Who would choose such a change?

For mortality it is only nature to alter and be changed; but for the immortal to abide the same forever. God would never accept such a change.'



Celsus
2nd century Greek Philosopher and avid
opponent of Christianity

Offence of the cross

1. During Roman times, crucifixion was the ultimate penalty reserved mainly for rebellious subjects of various kinds (insurrection and the like) and slaves.
2. Jesus died as a state criminal, a scandal to Jew, Greek, and Christian alike
3. To the Jews the message of a crucified Messiah was the ultimate scandal. Although in Roman times the Jews did not crucify, they did afterward hang those who had been stoned, especially blasphemers and idolators.

Offence of the cross (continued)

1. They saw hanging therefore as the fulfillment of the law “because anyone who is hung on a tree is under God’s curse” (Deut. 21:23)
2. This also explains the deep rage of the apostle himself against Christ; he was infuriated that fellow Jews should honor as God one who God himself had obviously cursed by having him hanged (Gal. 1:13-14; 3:13)
3. How utterly outrageous the message of a God who got himself crucified by his enemies must have seemed to the 1st century Greek or Roman (wicked delusion)

11:1 A shoot will grow out of Jesse's root stock, a bud will sprout from his roots.

11:2 The Lord's spirit will rest on him—a spirit that gives extraordinary wisdom, a spirit that provides the ability to execute plans, a spirit that produces absolute loyalty to the Lord

11:4 He will treat the poor fairly, and make right decisions for the downtrodden of the earth. He will strike the earth with rod of his mouth and order the wicked to be executed

Isaiah 11:1,2,4

Jews demand for signs (messianic expectations)

1. God has acted powerfully in their behalf in history-with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm; the promised Messiah would restore the former glory by acting powerfully on their behalf once again
2. “show us a sign” they repeatedly demand of Jesus, “authenticate yourself; validate your messianic credentials with powerful displays.”
3. Their idolatry was that they now had God completely figured out; he would simply repeat the Exodus, in still greater splendor

29 Jesus answered them, “This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent.”

30 So they said to him, “Then what sign do you do, that we may see and believe you? What work do you perform?”

John 6:29, 30

Surely he took up our pain
and bore our suffering,
yet we considered him punished by God,
stricken by him, and afflicted.

⁵ But he was pierced for our transgressions,
he was crushed for our iniquities;
the punishment that brought us peace was on him,
and by his wounds we are healed.

⁶ We all, like sheep, have gone astray,
each of us has turned to our own way;
and the LORD has laid on him
the iniquity of us all.

Isaiah 53:4-6

Luke and Isaiah comparison

The Spirit of the LORD is
upon Me,
Because He has
anoointed Me
To preach the gospel
to the poor;
He has sent Me to
heal the
brokenhearted,

The spirit of the Lord
GOD is upon me,
because the LORD has
anoointed me;
he has sent me to bring
good news to the
oppressed,
to bind up the
brokenhearted,

Luke and Isaiah comparison continued...

And recovery of sight
to the blind,

To set at liberty those
who are oppressed;

19 To proclaim the
acceptable year of the
LORD.”

21 And He began to say
to them, “Today this
Scripture is fulfilled in
your hearing”

Luke 4:18-21

to proclaim liberty
to the captives,

and release to the
prisoners;

to proclaim the
year of the LORD’s favor,

and the
day of vengeance of our
God;

Isaiah 61 :1



Alexamenos worships [his] god

He declared that the Christian point of view was:

‘Let no cultured person draw near, none wise, none sensible; for all that kind of thing we count evil; but if any man is ignorant, if any is wanting in sense and culture, if any is a fool let him come boldly.’

‘We see them in their own houses, wool-dressers, cobblers and fullers [people who clean clothes], the most uneducated and vulgar persons.’ He said that the Christians were ‘like a swarm of bats—or ants creeping out of their nests—or frogs holding a symposium round a swamp—or worms in conventicle in a corner of mud’.

Celsus’ malicious description of Christians

Conventional wisdom of the world

those who matter to it are the wise, the well-bred, the articulate, the gifted, the wealthy, the wielders of power and influence

Such standards die very hard even in the
Christian church

Meaning of the word “boasting”

1. It can mean “to take pride in” or
2. To glory in
3. But at times, it comes very close to the concept of “trust” that is, “to put one’s full confidence in”
4. We boast in that which we have risked everything in order to secure ourselves

Affluent and influential people who became Christians

- **Dionysius** at Athens (**Acts 17:34**)
- **Sergius Paulus**, the proconsul of Crete (**Acts 13:6–12**)
- **noble ladies** at Thessalonica and Berea (**Acts 17:4, 12**)
- **Erastus**, the city treasurer, probably of Corinth (**Romans 16:23**)
- **Pomponia Graecina**, the wife of Plautius, the conqueror of Britain was martyred by Nero
- **Flavius Clemens**, the cousin of the emperor himself, was martyred as a Christian

Wisdom of the cross and its benefits

Trust God and be saved by his wise folly, or keep up our pretensions and perish

1. Wisdom
 2. Right standing & relationship with God (“righteousness”)
 3. Moral cleansing (“holiness”)
 4. Rescue from slavery to sin (“redemption”)
- * Each of these words are nouns instead of verbs**

11 God did extraordinary miracles through the hands of Paul, **12** so that even handkerchiefs and aprons that had touched him were taken to the sick, and the disease and evil spirits left them.

[Acts 19:12](#)

¹³ As you know, it was because of an illness that I first preached the gospel to you¹⁴ and even though my illness was a trial to you, you did not treat me with contempt or scorn. Instead, you welcomed me as if I were an angel of God, as if I were Christ Jesus himself.

[Galatians 4:13-14](#)

⁷ even though I have received such wonderful revelations from God. So to keep me from becoming proud, I was given a thorn in my flesh, a messenger from Satan to torment me and keep me from becoming proud.

⁸ Three different times I begged the Lord to take it away. ⁹ Each time he said, “My grace is all you need. My power works best in weakness.” So now I am glad to boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ can work through me. ¹⁰ That’s why I take pleasure in my weaknesses, and in the insults, hardships, persecutions, and troubles that I suffer for Christ. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

[2 Corinthians 12:7-10](#) (NLT)



Idolatries of humanity and its wisdom

1. God must function as the all-powerful or the all-wise, but always in terms of our best interest, i.e., power in our behalf, wisdom like ours
2. The ultimate idolatry is that of insisting that God conform to our own prior views as to how “the God who makes sense” ought to do things (God as ultimate reason but of course based on what we deem as reasonable)
3. Demand for power and the insistence on wisdom, always for us or from our point of view, are still the basic idolatries of our fallen world, which also have the unfortunate habit of sneaking their way into the community of faith

Foolishness of God's wisdom

1. Foolishness of the message of the cross
(1:18-2:5)
2. Insignificance of the people God chooses
(1:26-31)
3. Weakness of the messenger God uses
(2:1-5)

***Foolishness of God is wiser than man's wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than man's strength (1 Cor. 2:5)**