

19 April 2013

"The Consolations of Philosophy" from Warburton: Boethius, Kirkegaard, Nietzsche and Sartre.

The topic very loosely linking these four was "Consolation": is belief in philosophy or religion a consolation to us?

Clearly it was for Boethius.

Kierkegaard found the religion demanded that we make difficult choices, often beyond the comforting rationality of Kant's analysis.

Nietzsche said that when we lost God, the personification of good, we lost good and evil with him, and traced the development of our value systems.

The Existentialists have nothing at all to give consolation: your life is what you make it.

This was our first session working from Warburton. It seems to work as a "shallow" pass through the history of Philosophy. The analogy of a jigsaw was suggested for Philosophy, and we should perhaps regard these studies as getting the pieces out of the box and looking at their shapes and colours. Maybe a few pieces will fit together, but that's a bonus!