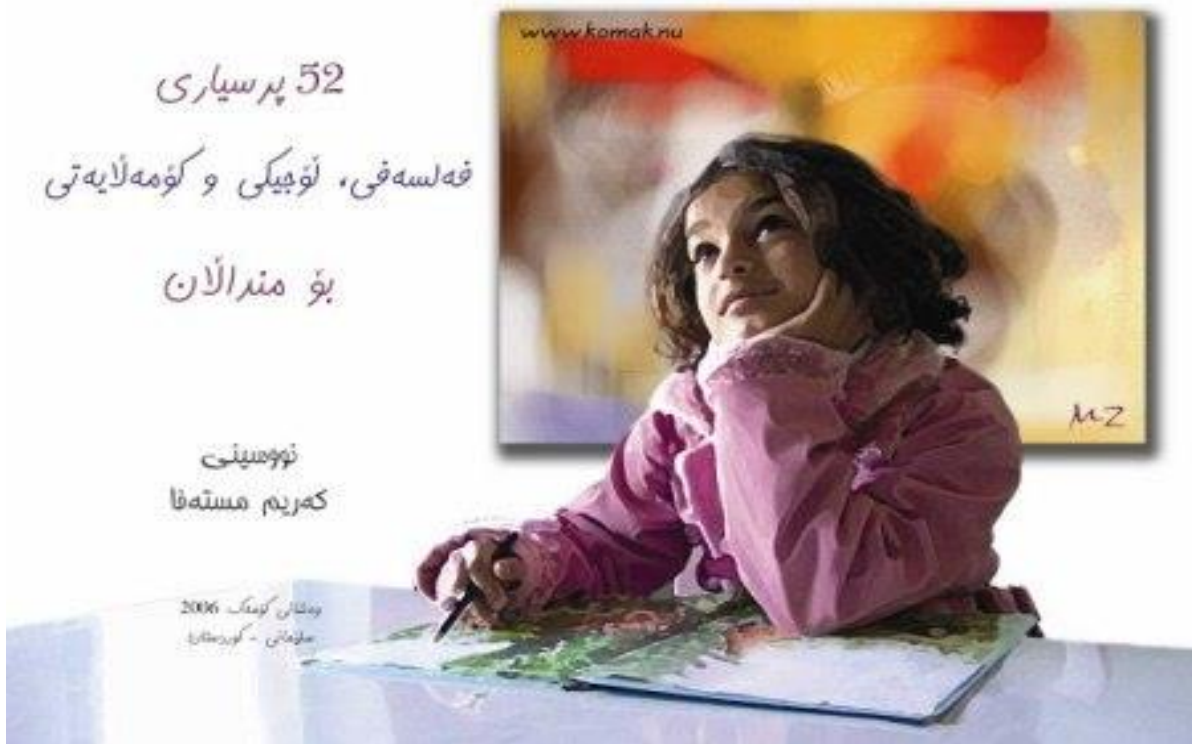


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PHILOSOPHICAL, LOGICAL AND SOCIAL QUESTIONS FOR CHILDREN



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SULAIMANY – KURDSTAN
2006

FORWORD

“In philosophy you learn how to think not what you think. “

No one can deny the significance and value of philosophy. It relies on critical and creative thinking. A nation without philosophical thinking remains blind to creativity and hence will grow without critical tools to evaluate its own culture and history. In order to apprehend the reality of human existence and progress we need to give priority to philosophical thinking in our educational system.

Philosophy for Children (P4C) is a powerful tool. It assists them to develop their analytic and critical skills with a lot of fun. It does not involve teaching in a traditional sense, but encourage them to participate in debate and listening to the views of others. It assists them to build confidence and self-esteem.

Philosophy for/with Children, P4C is a method of teaching and learning that can be used by any group of people. It involves the old art style of philosophizing: questioning and answering the most important and thoughtful issues without studying philosophy as a subject. Your role would be to lead a P4C session, called a “Community Enquiry” with a community group. It aims to develop the four C’s of creative, critical, collaborative and caring thinking skills

For those who are involved with Philosophy for/with Children, the key practice for starting and driving the whole thinking process is indeed enquiry (interpreted as going beyond the given information to seek understanding); and the key practice that results in significant changes of thought and action is reflection.

'P4C', as it known, is a really powerful tool for getting children to think - and think hard. Not only hitting all the right thinking skills buttons across all curriculum subject areas P4C also delivers a huge payback with regard to self-esteem, where shy and quiet children have used P4C as a way of growing enormously in confidence.

Philosophy for children is based on wonder and curiosity about ideas significant in the life of students. These ideas underpin both experiences of human life and academic disciplines. They include ideas about truth, reality, knowledge, evidence, freedom, justice, goodness, rights, mind, identity, love, friendship, rules, responsibility, action, logic, language, fairness, reason, existence, possibility, beauty, meaning, self, time, God, infinity, human nature, and thought. The central pedagogical tool and guiding ideal of Philosophy for Children is the community of inquiry. In the community of inquiry, students work together to generate and then answer their own questions about the philosophical issues contained in purpose written materials or a wide range of other resources. Thinking in the community of inquiry is critical, creative, collaborative and caring.

This book

this book contains 52 questions for the 52 weeks of a year. It is a way to keep children thinking without keeping them away from other works at school. This is fun and an easy way to start philosophy with children.

With the questions, it was given four possibilities or options for children to work on issues, (write, ask, draw, think)

each question must print in an A4 sheet, that children have enough space to draw or write what they mean.

Many thanks to Dr. Muhammad Kamal, for the help he gave me to correct the English language for the book.

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Jan.2009



Karim Mostafa teaching Philosophy for Children in class room, (in Dalalan School, Raniye provision - Kurdistan)

52 Questions

1-Who are you? How did you come to the world?

(Write, ask, draw, think)

2-How or when do you think life started? Do you think it has an end?

(Write, ask, draw, think)

3-Do you think there is life on other planets, and if there is, how do the creatures look like? (Write, ask, draw, think)

4-Imagine humans grow up like plants, how do you would look like?

(write, ask, draw, think)

5-Are you smart and beautiful? What is to be smart and beautiful?

(Write, ask, draw, think)

6-Do you think that other people have feelings? Can you feel what others feel?

(Write, ask, draw, think)

7-Do you think that other creatures have feelings? Can they be sad or feel pain?

(Write, ask, draw, think)

8-If you can change yourself to another creature, what creature would you like to become?

Why? (Write, ask, draw, think)

9-Do you think that trees, flowers and grass have feeling? What is your favorite flower?

(Write, ask, draw, think)

10-Are you one who think, what are you thinking about? (Write, ask, draw, think)

11-Do you have emotion? What do you feel? (Write, ask, draw, think)

12-Do people know themselves before they think or they think then they know themselves? (write, ask, draw, think)

13-Do you like to listen to music, watch theater, look at paintings, statues, and also dance, what are these forms of performances? What do you name a person who paints, plays

music? (Write, ask, draw, think)

14-Are you fond of sports? Do you know that sport and exercise are important for the body to remain healthy? Why? (Write, ask, draw, think)

15-How do you know that you are healthy? Is it fun to stay healthy?
(Write, ask, draw, think)

16-If we are healthy, we need to work. Why is it important to work? We live to work, or we must work to live? (Write, ask, draw, and think)

17- Are you a disabled Person? If not, think of how a disabled person manages to do his/her daily tasks. (Write, ask, draw, and think)

18-Are you happy at school? Why is it important for us to go to school?
(Write, ask, draw, think)

Which of the school subjects do you like best? Why? (Write, ask, draw, think)

19-Why should we learn mathematics, only to count? But there are many things we cannot count. Do you know what these things are? (write, ask, draw, think)

20-Is it important to learn all kinds of sciences? What can you use them for?
(Write, ask, draw, think)

21-Is it important to learn a language other than your native language? Can you speak another language? Answer this question in the other language you can. (Write, ask, draw, think)

22-Do you know how many weeks, days, hours and minutes are in a year? How many minutes have you lived? (Write, ask, draw, think)

23-If a person has only 24 hours to live, how will he use the time? Can you help him/her to organize his/her time? (Write, ask, draw, think)

24-How do you use your time daily, for example, from 8 in the morning to 8 at night?
(Write, ask, draw, think)

25-Do you know that people have to sleep 8 hours in a day? Why do we need to sleep? How many hours you sleep each day? Do all creatures need to sleep? (Write, ask, draw, think)

26-Most of the time we sleep inn, we dream. Have you ever dreamt? What did you dream about? (Write, ask, draw, think)

27- Does dream have something to do with daily experiences? Whatever we will not be able to achieve in reality, can be achieved in dreams? Do you have accomplished one of your dreams? (Write, ask, draw, think)

28- Do you think that other living beings dream? If they do, what do you think they dream about? Can you draw it? Or draw a dream you've had? (Write, ask, draw, think)

29- The four elements, air, water, soil and fire (energy) are sources of life, therefore we have to look after them and not overuse and abuse them. If one of the sources intended wastes, do you think that life continues? (Write, ask, draw, think)

30- We need to keep our environment clean, why? Do you take care of the environment? (Write, ask, draw, think)

31- Do you like nature? What do you like most, mountains, valleys, forests or landscapes, why? (Write, ask, draw, think)

32- Do you know what love is? How do you describe it? Do you love someone or something? Why? (Write, ask, draw, think)

33- Do you look at people and things and love them because they are beautiful? Are they beautiful only in your eyes? (Write, ask, draw, think)

34- How do the nearest people (your sister, your brother and your friends) know that you love them? Is it necessary to declare your love or you keep it hidden? (Write, ask, draw, think)

35- When people are in the mother's womb, when they sleep, get sick, and die, they are always alone. Does that mean we are always lonely even though we live among people? (Write, ask, draw, think)

36- Do you feel lonely? Do you think other people also feel lonely? (Write, ask, draw, think)

37- Do you think people always understand you, or only sometimes? Do you often understand them or seldom? (Write, ask, draw, think)

38- Sometimes we call what the others are doing "wrong". How do you know that an action is "wrong" or "right"? If other people have acted incorrectly, do you warn them? Do you like that the others warn your mistakes as well? (Write, ask, draw, think)

39- Do you want to do everything what you want, without being stopped? Why? Do you

think that other people have the same desire as well? (Write, ask, draw, think)

40-Laws and regulations are programs people found them to arrange their lives, and to organize relations between them. If everyone follows the laws and regulations, do you think life will be better and easier? How? (Write, ask, draw, think)

41-Laws must be respected and followed, if not, we get penalties. Who says law makes no mistake? Do you follow or respect a law when you do not like or agree with it? (write, ask, draw, think)

42-Clothing is a personal right, but from the day we are born, family, social policy, religion, law and even politics, determines the type of clothes we wear. Can we dress what we want everywhere and at any time? (Write, ask, draw, think)

43- If everyone does what they want, and take what they want without being stopped, do you think life would be easier or more difficult? (Write, ask, draw, think)

44-A philosopher has said "you become what you eat" if you eat an apple, or chicken and lam, do you become like them? (write, ask, draw, think)

45- People are important and should be respected, but sometimes and in some places, there are some people who are more important and respected due to their power, wealth, and knowledge they have. They could be artists or beautiful! How do you respect people? Do you respect them because they are human beings or they are powerful? (Write, ask, draw, think)

46- Poetry, Prose, short story, novel, and drama are various kinds of literature. What do you like most among them? Some people believe that literature makes life more beautiful! What if literature does not exist? (Write, ask, draw, think)

47-Why should children obey parents, teachers and elders? If elders are wrong, should children obey them? (Write, ask, draw, think)

48-When the others ask you to do something, or complete a task, why are you going to do it, it's because:

-you believe in what you were asked?

-or because an older person gave you an order?

-or because it was a law?

-or because you are afraid of being punished if you do not obey? (Write, ask, draw, think)

49-Is it important to help other people? Why? Do you help only those you know, or all those who need it? (Write, ask, draw, think)

50-Do you help others for your own satisfaction? Or you think they will be satisfied with you? (write, ask, draw, think)

51-Do you think human beings, animals, plants, earth and the whole universe are made by chance or God has created them? (Write, ask, draw, think)

52- Do you think that life without question and wondering is easier or more difficult? (Write, ask, draw, think)

