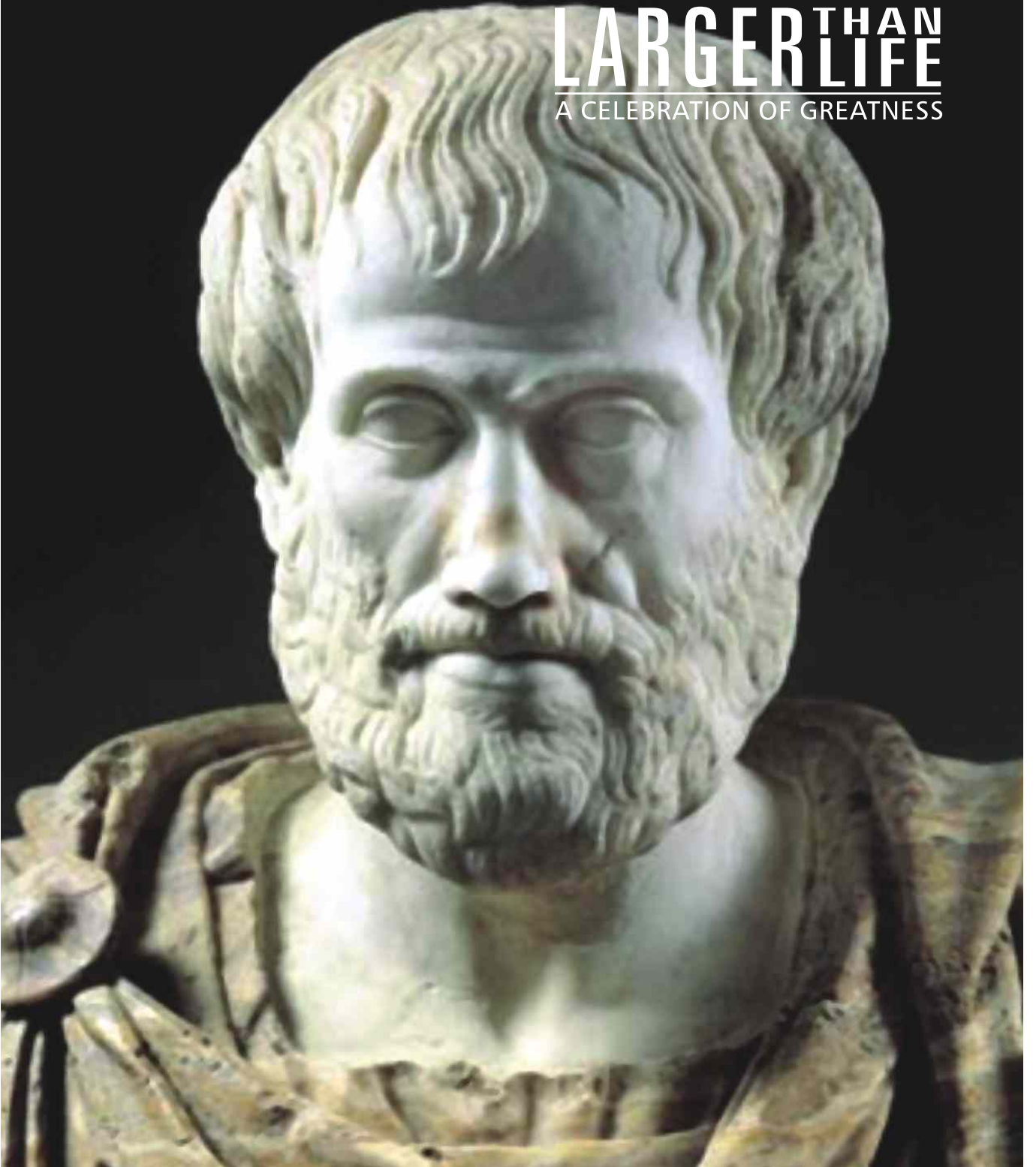


**LARGER THAN
LIFE**
A CELEBRATION OF GREATNESS



Aristotle

Influential

(384 BC - 322 BC)

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Introduction:

Aristotle was a **Greek philosopher, a student of Plato and teacher of Alexander the Great.**

He **wrote on diverse subjects, including physics, metaphysics, poetry (including theater), logic, rhetoric, politics, government, ethics, biology and zoology.**

Along with Socrates and Plato, he was among the **most influential of the ancient Greek philosophers, as they transformed Presocratic Greek philosophy into the foundations of Western philosophy as it is known today.**

Birth, Early Life & Education:

He was **born in 384 BC in Stagira**, Chalcidice. He was the son of a physician father, whose profession equipped Aristotle with science background.

When he was 17, he decided that he would broaden his knowledge and he chose to go to a city, Athens. **In Athens, he studied under the guidance of Plato, with whom he stayed until Plato's death in the year 347 BC.**

Aristotle And Alexander:

After the death of Plato, Aristotle went with Xenocrates to the court of Hermias, ruler of Atarneus in Asia Minor.

Then, one or two years later, he was **summoned to his native Stagira by King Philip II of Macedon to become the tutor of Alexander the Great**, who was then 13.

Aristotle not only imparted to Alexander knowledge of ethics and politics, but also of the most profound secrets of philosophy. **Alexander profited by contact with the philosopher, and Aristotle made prudent and beneficial use of his influence over the young prince.**

Due to this influence, Alexander provided Aristotle with ample means for the acquisition of books and the pursuit of his scientific investigation, and it is **quite likely that Alexander the Great's renowned military ability can be traced, at least in part, to his relationship with Aristotle.**

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Return To Athens:

In about 335 BCE, Alexander departed for his Asiatic campaign, and Aristotle, who had served as an informal adviser since Alexander ascended the Macedonian throne, returned to Athens and **opened his own school of philosophy.**

Aristotle and Philosophy:

In Organon and similar works, Aristotle developed a comprehensive system of logic and reasoning for addressing problems of logic, being and reality.

In Physics, Aristotle investigated the nature of causation and, hence, our ability to explain what we see and experience.

In Nicomachean Ethics, among other works, he explored the nature of ethical conduct, arguing that an ethical life involves achieving happiness and that happiness is best achieved through rational thought and contemplation.

He also **defended the idea that ethical conduct derives from human virtues and that virtues are themselves a product of moderation between extremes.**

With regards to **politics, he argued that humans are, by nature, political animals. This means that humans are also social animals** and that any understanding of human behavior and human needs must include social considerations.

He **investigated the merits of various kinds of political systems, describing their different virtues and vices. His classification system of monarchies, oligarchies, tyrannies, democracies and republics is still used today.**

He made very interesting **discussion on the topics of matter, change, movement, space, position, and time as well as studying comets.**

Death:

Aristotle **died in 322 BC**, leaving behind strong feelings in Athens. He left a will, which has been preserved, in which he asked to be buried next to his wife, Pythias.

Quotes

“Well begun is half done.”

“He who has overcome his fears will truly be free.”

“Thus every action must be due to one or other of seven causes: chance, nature, compulsion, habit, reasoning, anger, or appetite.”

“Hope is a dream of a waking man.”

Quiz

- 1) Who was the student of Aristotle?
- 2) What was the name of Aristotle's wife?
- 3) Who was Aristotle's teacher?

Last Quiz Winners

Ketan Bharadvaj - Project • **Hetal Patel** - iCubix

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