

Socrates “triple refined Test”

Trying to find the appropriate bricks to build the “home of the human dignity”, I send you one, which in my humble opinion is useful. I hope my evaluation for this to be correct.

One day the great ancient Greek philosopher Socrates was walking in the area of the market. There he met an acquaintance of him, who told him that he had heard something very important to tell him for one of his students.

Then Socrates replied,

- before telling me what you have heard, I would prefer to use the test of the triple refined.
- What’s this triple refined, asked the man.
- Ok, before you tell me what you heard about my student, let’s filter what you want to tell me.
 - the first filter is that of truth, Socrates said, and continued,
 - are you so sure that what is going to tell me is true?
 - Oh, not exactly, but simply I heard it...the man replied.
 - So you have no idea if what you want to tell me is true or false.

- Now let's try the second filter, this of goodness. What you want to tell me about my student is it something good?
- Not at all, rather the opposite.
- Thus, Socrates continued, you want to tell me something bad for my student, but you are not sure if this is true and good.

The man didn't reply.

- However, Socrates said again, you can still pass the test with the third filter, which is that of usefulness. Is what you want to tell me for my student something that can give me something useful?
- No, I don't think so, replied the man.
- So, after what you told me till now, your information is neither true, nor good, nor useful. Why should I hear it?

The man instead of replying left ashamed.

If we consider this test useful, let's adopt it in our daily life.

Takis Ioannides
Student of this life.
6 4 2012