

iii. Absolute Spirit

Section 553

Imagine there's something called "spirit." It's like a special idea or feeling that's really important. Now, when this spirit becomes real, it means it's like the idea coming to life. When the idea and the real thing match perfectly, it's like they fit together just right. It's kind of like when you find the perfect puzzle piece that fits exactly where it's supposed to go. So, there are two parts to this spirit: the part that's inside us (our thoughts and feelings) and the part that's outside, like the world around us. They both help us understand what this spirit is all about. Sometimes, we learn about this spirit by looking at ourselves and how we think and feel. Other times, we learn about it by looking at the world around us and how things work together. And as we learn more about this spirit, we start to understand how it's connected to everything else. It's like putting together all the pieces of a big puzzle until we see the whole picture.

Section 554

Think of being a person as starting with just being yourself and growing up. As you grow, you learn about the world and become more aware of things around you. Now, imagine there's something really important inside you that helps you make good choices and be a good person. This thing inside you is like your heart or your spirit. It's what helps you know right from wrong and understand how everything fits together. This special thing inside you is so powerful that it makes you feel connected to everything around you - like nature and the world. It's like having a super strong feeling of love and understanding for everything and everyone. So, when you listen to this special feeling inside you and make good choices, you're showing how powerful and important it is. It's like being a superhero with a big heart, making the world a better place.

Section 555

When the spirit, which is like a special feeling or idea, gets split into two parts, it's like making a big decision or figuring something out. It's like when you have to choose between playing with your toys or going outside to play - you have to think about what you want to do and why.

(a) The Religion as Art

Section 556

The first way we understand the spirit is by imagining it as a perfect idea or feeling. It's like thinking about a big dream that makes us feel really happy and excited.

Section 557

Think of the ideal like the most important and special thing in the whole world. It's like the heart of everything, including nature and all the feelings we have inside us. Now, imagine this ideal is like a big, warm hug that makes everything feel just right. It's like feeling safe and loved, no matter what. When we understand this ideal, we realize that it's like a big puzzle piece that fits perfectly into everything else. It's like the missing piece that makes the whole picture complete. And when we see how everything fits together so perfectly, we know that this ideal is the most important truth of all. It's like finding out the secret to making everything in the world work just right.

Section 558

When we first start thinking about the most important thing ever, it's like we're just starting to understand it. It's kind of like when you first learn about a new toy or game - you're not sure exactly how it works, but you're excited to figure it out.

So, when we start thinking about this really important thing, it feels like we're only seeing a small part of it. It's like looking at one piece of a big puzzle and not knowing how it fits with the others yet. But even though we don't understand it all yet, we're still curious and excited to learn more.

Section 559

Imagine there's something really special that comes from our thoughts and feelings. It's like when you draw a picture or make something with your toys - you're using your imagination to create something beautiful. This special thing is like a magical transformation. It takes ordinary stuff, like the toys and colors you have, and turns them into something amazing. It's like turning a plain rock into a sparkling gem just by thinking about it. When we think about this special thing, it helps us see the beauty in everything around us. It's like wearing glasses that make everything look extra pretty and wonderful.

Section 560

When something is beautiful, it's because our thoughts and feelings make it special. It's like when you use your imagination to turn ordinary things into something amazing.

Now, what makes something beautiful can be different for everyone. It's like how some people might think a colorful picture is beautiful, while others might think a story or a song is beautiful. So, beauty is like a special sparkle that comes from our thoughts and feelings, and it can show up in all sorts of different ways!

Section 561

When something looks or feels just right, it's because it's filled with something really important inside. It's like when you draw a picture and put all your favorite colors and shapes in it - that's what makes it special. Now, sometimes what makes things special is different for everyone. It's like how you might love a picture of a puppy, but your friend might like a picture of a kitten instead. So, when something feels just perfect, it's because it's filled with something special that makes it unique and wonderful!

Section 562

When someone makes something like a painting or a sculpture, it's because they have a special idea in their mind that they want to show to everyone. It's like when you draw a picture of your favorite animal or build a castle out of blocks - you're putting your imagination into something real. Now, when you make something like a painting, you want it to be so perfect that everyone can understand and appreciate it. You don't want it to just be about you and your feelings; you want it to be about something bigger and more important. So, when your painting or sculpture is finished, it's like showing the world a piece of your heart. You want it to be so special and amazing that everyone can see how wonderful it is. And even though it might take a lot of hard work and effort to make, it's worth it because you're sharing something beautiful with everyone.

Section 563

When people feel really close to God, it's like they're sharing a special connection with something bigger and more important than themselves. It's like feeling happy and excited because they know they're a part of something really amazing. Now, when people worship or pray to God, they're showing how much they love and believe in something greater than themselves. It's like giving a big hug to the whole world and saying, "I love you, God!" And when people feel this special connection, they forget about themselves for a moment and just focus on how wonderful it feels to be a part of something so special. It's like feeling so happy and excited that nothing else matters except being with God.

Section 564

In history, something really special happens when everyone starts to understand and learn together. It's like when you and your friends learn something new at school, and it feels like a big adventure! Now, when everyone learns together, it's like they're sharing their ideas and understanding with each other. It's like putting all the puzzle pieces together to see the whole picture. And when this happens, it's like a big light bulb moment where everyone suddenly understands something really important. It's like the whole world is filled with excitement and joy because they've discovered something amazing together!

(b) Revealed Religion

Section 565

Think of a big spirit that's really special and important. This spirit is like the heart of everything in nature and all the feelings we have inside us. It's like a big hug that makes everything feel just right. Now, this special spirit also likes to show itself in different ways. Sometimes it's like a story or a picture that helps us understand it better. But even though this spirit is really amazing, it's also like a big puzzle with lots of pieces. Each piece is important, and they all fit together to make the whole picture. So, when we think about this special spirit, we're using our imagination to understand it better. It's like putting all the pieces of the puzzle together to see the big picture!

Section 566

Imagine you have a big toy box with lots of different toys inside. Now, when you play, you might pick out one toy at a time to play with. You might start with the cars, then move on to the dolls, and then the blocks. In the same way, when we think about things, we sometimes separate them into different parts. It's like taking one piece of the puzzle at a time to understand it better. So, when we think about something really important, like how to be a good friend or how to help others, we might break it down into smaller parts to understand it better. It's like solving a puzzle one piece at a time!

Section 567

Think of a really big and important spirit that's like the boss of everything. This spirit is so powerful that it's like the one who made the whole world, like the sky and the earth. But even though this spirit is really powerful, it's also like a parent who has a child. The child is part of the spirit but is also separate and unique in its own way. So, just like how a parent loves and takes care of their child, this big spirit takes care of everything in the world, including us! It's like having a really big family where everyone is important and loved.

Section 568

Imagine there's a big story where things happen in different parts. In one part of the story, there's a big family with lots of different people. They're like the main characters in the story, and they're all connected to each other in a special way. But then, something happens, and some of the characters start acting differently. They start doing things that aren't very nice, like being mean to each other or causing trouble. So, in this part of the story, there's a big conflict between the characters who are being mean and the ones who are trying to do what's right. It's like a big battle between good and bad, and everyone's trying to figure out how to make things better.

Section 569

Imagine there's a big adventure story with lots of exciting parts. In one part of the story, there's a special character who learns something really important. This character is like you

or me, but they're also part of something bigger and more important. Now, this character goes through some tough times, but they learn from their mistakes and become a better person. They learn that even though things can be hard sometimes, they can still find happiness and joy in the end. So, by the end of the story, this character has become really wise and strong. They've learned to be kind and brave, and they've made the world a better place. It's like they've become a hero in their own adventure!

Section 570

Imagine there's a big story where everything is connected. In this story, there's a special part where someone learns something important about themselves. This person starts out feeling unsure and maybe even a little bit sad. But then, something happens that helps them see things differently. They realize that even though things might seem hard, they can still find happiness by being kind and helping others. So, this person decides to change and become a better version of themselves. They learn to let go of their worries and focus on being good and kind to others. By the end of the story, this person feels happy and proud of themselves. They've learned that by being kind and caring, they can make a big difference in the world.

Section 571

Imagine there's a big story with lots of exciting parts. In this story, there's a really important idea called "absolute." This idea is like the heart of the story, and it shows up in different shapes and forms as the story goes on. Now, as the story unfolds, the idea of "absolute" starts to show itself in different ways. It's like pieces of a puzzle coming together to reveal the big picture. And by the end of the story, everyone understands how special and important this idea is. It's like they've found the true meaning of the story, and they all feel happy and satisfied. And that's what philosophy is all about: finding the true meaning behind all the stories. It's like discovering the secret message hidden in a treasure map.

(c) Philosophy

Section 572

Imagine you have a big cake. This cake is made of two special ingredients: art and religion. Now, art is like the yummy frosting on the cake. It's colorful and beautiful, and it makes the cake look amazing. But there's more to it! Religion is like the secret ingredient inside the cake. It's what gives the cake its special flavor and makes it taste so good. When you put art and religion together, it's like magic! The cake becomes even more delicious. But there's a trick: you have to mix them just right. If you mix too much art or too much religion, the cake won't taste as good. So, when you mix art and religion just right, you get something really special. It's like having a cake that not only looks beautiful but also tastes amazing. And that's what philosophy is all about: understanding how art and religion work together to make something truly wonderful.

Section 573

Imagine you have a big puzzle with lots of pieces. Each piece is important to make the whole picture. Now, some pieces are colorful and easy to see, like the ones on the outside of the puzzle. These are like the stories and pictures we see every day, like in books or movies. But there are also pieces inside the puzzle that are hidden, like secrets waiting to be discovered. These pieces are like the things we can't see but we believe are there, like love or kindness. Now, imagine you're putting the puzzle together, trying to figure out how all the pieces fit. As you put the pieces together, you start to understand the whole picture better. It's like you're solving a big mystery! In the end, when you finish the puzzle, you look back and see how all the pieces fit perfectly. It's like you're looking back on everything you've learned and understood. That's what Hegel means when he talks about philosophy understanding its own concept. It's like finishing the puzzle and seeing the whole beautiful picture.

Section 574

Imagine you have a special book that knows everything about everything. This book is like a really smart friend who can figure out any problem. Now, this book has a special power: it can think about itself. It's like when you look in the mirror and see yourself. This book can look at itself and understand everything about itself. So, when this book thinks about itself, it goes back to where it started, like going back to the first page of a storybook. But this time, it's not just the beginning, it's like a super beginning where everything makes sense. In this super beginning, the book doesn't need anything else to understand itself. It's like it's standing on its own two feet, strong and confident. It's like magic how it can understand itself so well!

Section 575

Let's pretend you have a magic wand that can turn things into other things. So, you start with something simple, like a seed. This seed is like an idea, just waiting to grow into something more. Then, you wave your wand and turn the seed into a plant. This plant is like nature, something real that you can touch and see. But wait, there's more magic! You wave your wand again, and the plant turns into a beautiful butterfly. This butterfly is like spirit, something alive and full of energy. Now, the cool thing is, your magic wand can turn things back and forth. So, the butterfly can turn into a plant again, and the plant can turn back into a seed. It's like a big circle of transformation! In Hegel's world, it's kind of like that. He talks about how ideas (like the seed) become real things in nature (like the plant), and then those things in nature become alive with spirit (like the butterfly). It's all connected, like a magical journey where everything changes and grows.

Section 576

Imagine you're playing with building blocks. You have blocks of different colors and shapes. Now, let's say you want to build something cool, like a tower. First, you pick a block to start with. This block is like nature, it's just there. Then, you pick another block, and this block is like your thoughts or ideas. You use your ideas to connect the blocks together and build something awesome, like a tower. Now, imagine your ideas are like a special helper called Spirit. Spirit helps you figure out how to put the blocks together in a way that makes sense. So, while you're building your tower, Spirit is there, making sure everything fits just right. And when you step back and look at your tower, you see how your ideas and the blocks of nature work together to create something amazing. That's what Hegel is talking about when he says Spirit is the mediating factor between appearance and reality. It's like your special helper making sure everything in your tower looks great!

Section 577

Think of a big, big storybook. This storybook is all about everything in the world, from the tiniest ants to the tallest mountains. Now, this storybook has a very special character called Philosophy. Philosophy is like a wise old owl who knows everything about the storybook. Inside this storybook, there are two important things: Spirit and Nature. Spirit is like the magic inside the storybook, and Nature is like all the cool places and things you can explore in the storybook. Now, when you read the storybook, you'll notice that everything seems to connect. It's like one big adventure with twists and turns. Philosophy helps us understand how Spirit and Nature are connected. Spirit is like the main idea of the story, and Nature is all the fun details. So, when we talk about Nature in the storybook, we're not just talking about trees and animals. We're talking about how everything fits together like puzzle pieces. And Philosophy helps us see the big picture, making sure we understand how Spirit and Nature are part of the same amazing story.