



SCENARIO NR 3
THE SCHOOL OF ATHENS



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SCENARIO NR 3 | THE SCHOOL OF ATHENS

[Scuola di Atene](#) is a fresco by the Italian Renaissance artist Raphael. It was painted between 1509 and 1511 as a part of Raphael's commission to decorate the rooms now known as the Stanze di Raffaello, in the Apostolic Palace in the Vatican. It is believed to be the best known painting dedicated to philosophy; for sure it combines the biggest number of ancient thinkers in one place.

The compositional axis of the picture is defined by the opposition of two immortal gestures: a finger pointed up to the sky (Plato, red gown, white beard) and a straightened hand directed to the earth (Aristotle, blue gown, black beard). Some historians have summarized 2000 years of European philosophy as a chain of footnotes to those two authors. This oversimplification would be useful for the purpose of this game.

Let's revive the painting - instead of talking about the philosophers, let them talk for themselves for a couple of minutes. Other philosophers in the picture are joining the discussion in favor of either Plato (The Idealists) or Aristotle (The Realists). Gather in the group, find the best strategy, defeat your opponents and solve the dilemma once and for all!

The Athenian Hall is represented by 64 tiles of the chessboard. The discussions are basically endless, but this time they will take no more than 1 hour of gameplay.



The School of Athens - 8/10 players					
n.	BLUE	VALUE	0	OBJECTIVE	whom
1	Aristotle	king	3	win	(group)
2	Heraclitus	tower	5	kill	Parmenides
3	Diogenes	bishop	3	message	Plato
4	Epicurus	horse	3	message	Socrates
5	Archimedes	horse	3	kill	Pythagoras
6					
7		THE REALISTS			
8					
n.	RED	VALUE	0	OBJECTIVE	whom
1	Plato	king	3	win	(group)
2	Parmenides	tower	5	kill	Heraclitus
3	Zeno from Elea	bishop	3	message	Aristotle
4	Socrates	horse	3	get killed	yourself
5	Pythagoras	bishop	3	kill	Archimedes
6					
7		THE IDEALISTS			
8					

name

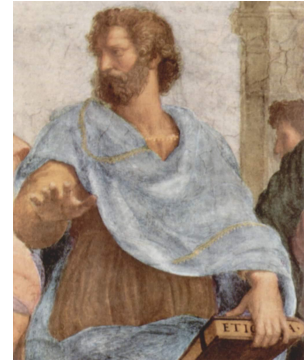
Aristotle

figure



KING

team - The Realists



You are the leader of The Realists. Each of the members has a philosophy of his own, but all of you agree on the following statements:

- Knowledge can be acquired by the senses of the body (eyesight, hearing, touch, smell, taste) and their mechanical extensions.
- The world we live in is the main and most important reality.

Your favourite ways of searching for the Truth are:

- systematic collection of data
- interpersonal methodology
- empiric experiment
- classification systems
- falsifiable hypotheses

personal objective

You are a visionary. After years of hard training and discipline you have reached the foundations of modern science. You are the one who brought grammar, physics and esthetics to the level of methodological research. Your books will inspire countless generations of young Greeks who will spread them around the world.

You are the founder of the Lykeion - a school of thinking, located in a grove at the eastern border of Athens, symbolically dedicated to Apollo Lyceus - The Wolf God. You consider it the very peak of Hellenic civilization.

You are the king and leader of your team. Instead of having an individual objective, you get 2 points for the group objective (see below).

group objective

You get 2 points if your army team wins the game of chess.

Try to focus on strategic thinking, but also on personal relations with your allies - convince them to reasonable moves and necessary sacrifices. Listen to their advice, but carefully, as they may be pursuing their own private agenda.



BLUE | KING

ARISTOTLE



name

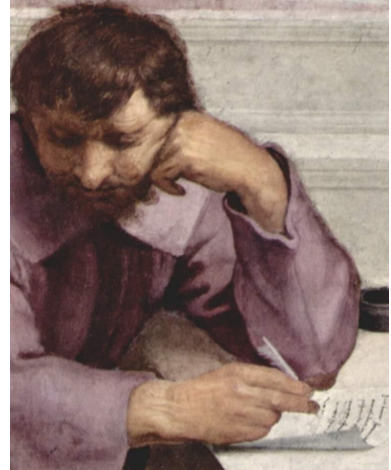
Heraclitus

figure



TOWER

team - The Realists



You are the leader of The Realists. Each of the members has a philosophy of his own, but all of you agree on the following statements:

- Knowledge can be acquired by the senses of the body (eyesight, hearing, touch, smell, taste) and their mechanical extensions.
- The world we live in is the main and most important reality.

Your favourite ways of searching for the Truth are:

- systematic collection of data
- interpersonal methodology
- empiric experiment
- classification systems
- falsifiable hypotheses

personal objective

You are a senior philosopher, you've been studying the ways of Nature when your today's adversaries were learning to crawl.

You are carrying an old grunge with your childhood companion - Parmenides. He represents the metaphysics of the eternal and the unchangeable, you represent the metaphysics of the ever-changing and the unstoppable.

It's time to finish this discussion at last, break him in front of the public. You get 1 point if you eliminate Parmenides from the chessboard by your own move.

Keep this objective a secret, otherwise your teammates will figure out that you are following a strategy which is not the most profitable for the team.

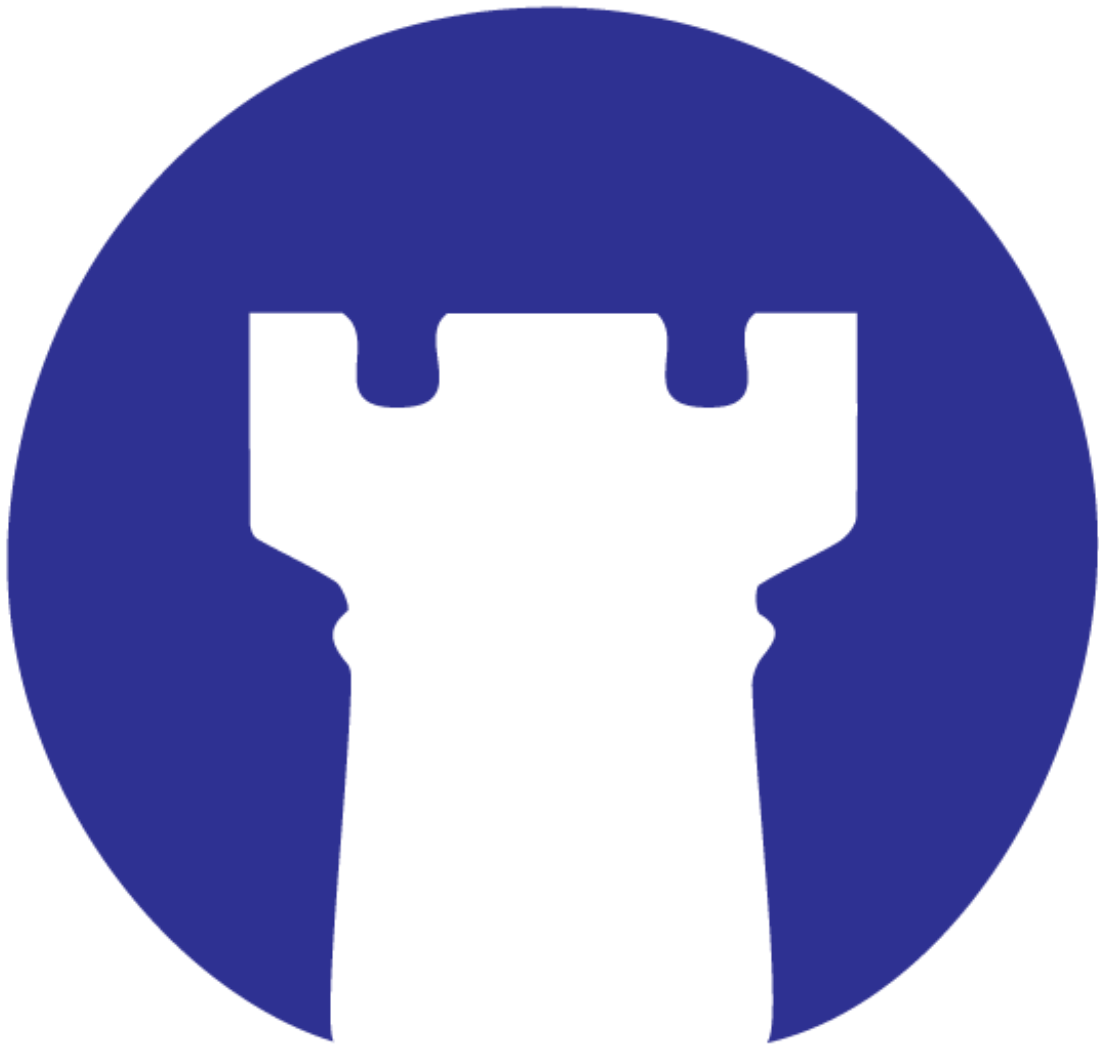
group objective

You get 1 point if your team wins the game of chess.

NOTE: If you have drawn the "Traitor Card", your group objective is reversed - you get 1 point if the opposite team wins the game of chess.

BLUE | TOWER

HERACLITUS



name

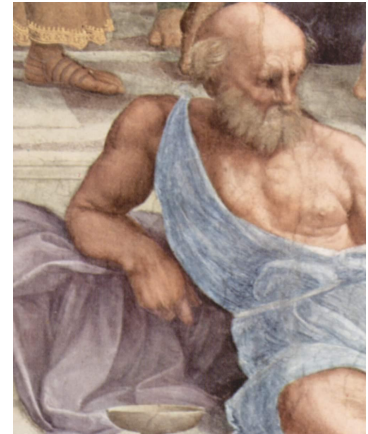
Diogenes

figure



BISHOP

team - The Realists



You are a member of The Realists. Each of the members has a philosophy of his own, but all of you agree on the following statements:

- Knowledge can be acquired by the senses of the body (eyesight, hearing, touch, smell, taste) and their mechanical extensions.
- The world we live in is the main and most important reality.

Your favourite ways of searching for the Truth are:

- systematic collection of data
- interpersonal methodology
- empiric experiment
- classification systems
- falsifiable hypotheses

personal objective

You are perceived as a rebel and a satirist, although in your eyes it is the whole society that has gone mad. You have a habit of walking with a lit lantern in the full daylight and asking “where can I find a man?”, which is to illustrate that there’s not a single sane person around you.

You have become a little tired of lying comfortably on the ground and bathing in the sun. For the sake of challenge and adventure, you want to join the Plato’s Academy. It’s a bit exclusive, reserved only for rich aristocrats, but you have found a way to get there. Deliver your letter to Plato and the doors should be opened.

You get 1 point if you deliver the Message Card personally to Plato and survive the next move. You need to stand directly field-to-field (horizontally, vertically or diagonally) in order to deliver a Message. Try to do this in secret, otherwise other players will figure out your objective.

group objective

You get 1 point if your team wins the game of chess.

NOTE: If you have drawn the “Traitor Card”, your group objective is reversed - you get 1 point if the opposite team wins the game of chess.

DIOGENES



name

Epicurus

figure



HORSE

team - The Realists



You are a member leader of The Realists. Each of the members has a philosophy of his own, but all of you agree on the following statements:

- Knowledge can be acquired by the senses of the body (eyesight, hearing, touch, smell, taste) and their mechanical extensions.
- The world we live in is the main and most important reality.

Your favourite ways of searching for the Truth are:

- systematic collection of data
- interpersonal methodology
- empiric experiment
- classification systems
- falsifiable hypotheses

personal objective

You are perceived as a rake and a spendthrift. There is a lot of gossip about your Garden (your contry-side residence), although most of the people talking have never visited the place.

You came to Athens in search of the famous Socrates, the street performer who “knows the right answer to any question”. You’ve heard that he’s suffering a mental breakdown because of too much stress in the city. You want to invite him personally to your Garden, where he can get better.

You get 1 point if you deliver your Message Card personally to Socrates and survive the next move. You need to stand directly field-to-field (horizontally, vertically or diagonally) in order to deliver a Message. Try to do this in secret, otherwise other players will figure out your objective.

group objective

You get 1 point if your team wins the game of chess.

NOTE: If you have drawn the “Traitor Card”, your group objective is reversed - you get 1 point if the opposite team wins the game of chess.

BLUE | HORSE

EPICURUS



name

Archimedes

figure



HORSE

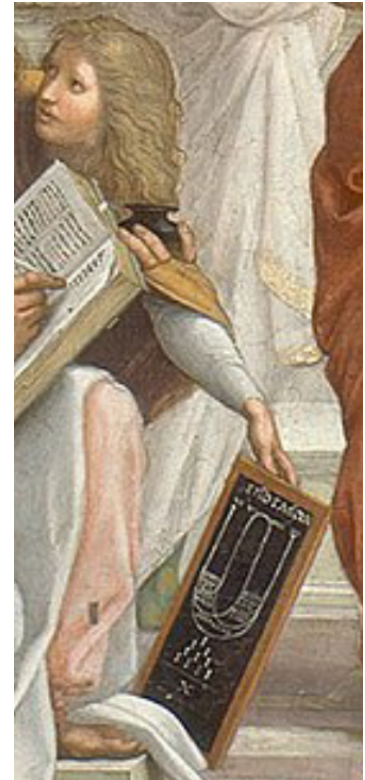
team - The Realists

You are the leader of The Realists. Each of the members has a philosophy of his own, but all of you agree on the following statements:

- Knowledge can be acquired by the senses of the body (eyesight, hearing, touch, smell, taste) and their mechanical extensions.
- The world we live in is the main and most important reality.

Your favourite ways of searching for the Truth are:

- systematic collection of data
- interpersonal methodology
- empiric experiment
- classification systems
- falsifiable hypotheses



personal objective

You are a senior philosopher, you've been studying the ways of Nature when your today's adversaries were learning to crawl.

You are carrying an old grunge with your childhood companion - Pythagoras. He represents the sacred and intuitive approach to mathematics, you represent the modern, quantitative way of dealing with numbers.

It's time to finish this discussion at last, break him in front of the public. You get 1 point if you eliminate Pythagoras from the chessboard by your own move.

Keep this objective a secret, otherwise your teammates will figure out that you are following a strategy which is not the most profitable for the team.

group objective

You get 1 point if your team wins the game of chess.

NOTE: If you have drawn the "Traitor Card", your group objective is reversed - you get 1 point if the opposite team wins the game of chess.

BLUE | HORSE

ARCHIMEDES



name

Plato

figure



KING

team - The Idealists



You are the leader of The Idealists. Each of the members has a philosophy of his own, but all of you agree on the following statements:

- The senses of the body (eyesight, hearing, touch, smell, taste) are unreliable and delusional.
- The most important parts of the universe are invisible and incorporeal.

Your favourite ways of searching for the Truth are:

- logical reasoning
- deep introspection
- intuition and emotions (only if clean)
- collective archetypes
- hidden knowledge of the ancestors

personal objective

You are a visionary. After years of hard training and discipline you have gained the insight into things which remain invisible to ordinary people. Although their simple mind cannot understand the depths of your teachings, you still try to educate them in simplified forms of dialogues and metaphors.

You are the founder of the Academy - a school of thinking, located beside an ancient grove of olive trees at the outskirts of Athens. Only high born and noble minds are allowed to enter your estates. You consider it the very peak of Hellenic civilization.

You are the king and leader of your team. Instead of having an individual objective, you get 2 points for it (see below).

group objective

You get 2 points if your army team wins the game of chess.

Try to focus on strategic thinking, but also on personal relations with your allies - convince them to reasonable moves and necessary sacrifices. Listen to their advice, but carefully, as they may be pursuing their own private agenda.



RED | KING

PLATO



name

Parmenides

figure



TOWER

team - The Idealists

You are a member of The Idealists. Each of the members has a philosophy of his own, but all of you agree on the following statements:

- The senses of the body (eyesight, hearing, touch, smell, taste) are unreliable and delusional
- The most important parts of the universe are invisible and incorporeal.

Your favourite ways of searching for the Truth are:

- logical reasoning
- deep introspection
- intuition and emotions (only if clean)
- collective archetypes
- hidden knowledge of the ancestors



personal objective

You are a senior philosopher, you've been studying the ways of Nature when your today's adversaries were learning to crawl.

You are carrying an old grunge with your childhood companion - Heraclitus. He represents the metaphysics of the ever-changing and the unstoppable, you represent the metaphysics of the eternal and the unchangeable.

It's time to finish this discussion at last, break him in front of the public. You get 1 point if you eliminate Heraclitus from the chessboard by your own move.

Keep this objective a secret, otherwise your teammates will figure out that you are following a strategy which is not the most profitable for the team.

group objective

You get 1 point if your team wins the game of chess.

NOTE: If you have drawn the "Traitor Card", your group objective is reversed - you get 1 point if the opposite team wins the game of chess.

RED | TOWER

PARMENIDES



name

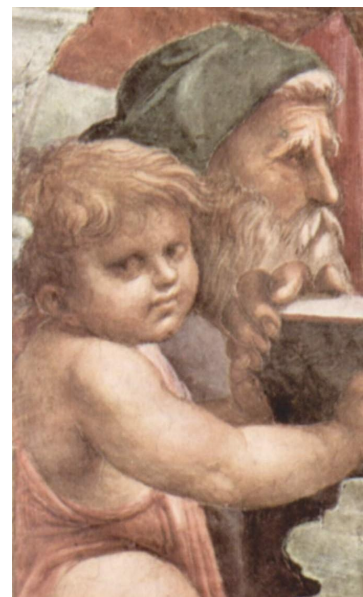
Zeno from Elea

figure



BISHOP

team - The Idealists



You are a member of The Idealists. Each of the members has a philosophy of his own, but all of you agree on the following statements:

- The senses of the body (eyesight, hearing, touch, smell, taste) are unreliable and delusional
- The most important parts of the universe are invisible and incorporeal.

Your favourite ways of searching for the Truth are:

- logical reasoning
- deep introspection
- intuition and emotions (only if clean)
- collective archetypes
- hidden knowledge of the ancestors

personal objective

You come from Elea - a Greek Colony in Italy. You have been raised in an open-minded family far from the backward mother cities. You've spent your life on independent research, always followed logic and reason, no matter the consequences.

You came to Athens to persuade the continental philosophers to cut off the burden of tradition and start thinking in the scientific way. You decided to go directly to their leader - the famous Aristotle, master of the Lykeion School. Give him your letter personally and you should have his attention.

You get 1 point if you deliver your Message Card personally to Aristotle and survive the next move. You need to stand directly field-to-field (horizontally, vertically or diagonally) in order to deliver a Message. Try to do this in secret, otherwise other players will figure out your objective.

group objective

You get 1 point if your team wins the game of chess.

NOTE: If you have drawn the "Traitor Card", your group objective is reversed - you get 1 point if the opposite team wins the game of chess.

ZENO



name

Socrates

figure



HORSE

team - The Idealists

You are a member of The Idealists. Each of the members has a philosophy of his own, but all of you agree on the following statements:

- The senses of the body (eyesight, hearing, touch, smell, taste) are unreliable and delusional
- The most important parts of the universe are invisible and incorporeal.

Your favourite ways of searching for the Truth are:

- logical reasoning
- deep introspection
- intuition and emotions (only if clean)
- collective archetypes
- hidden knowledge of the ancestors



personal objective

A stone-worker by profession, a talker by passion. You've spent most of your life on the streets of Athens, talking to people, whether they wanted to engage or just stayed because of politeness. Either way, you're an iconic figure in this city.

Yet, more and more often people are expressing frustration at your behaviour. Spoiling the public space, threatening the children and disrespecting the traditional symbols - that are the main charges. You're afraid that people may expel you from Athens or even close in a kind of asylum. You prefer to die publically than live alone, deprived of spectators.

You get 1 point if you are killed on the board during the game.

Keep this objective a secret, otherwise your teammates will figure out that you are following a strategy which is not the most profitable for the team.

group objective

You get 1 point if your team wins the game of chess.

NOTE: If you have drawn the "Traitor Card", your group objective is reversed - you get 1 point if the opposite team wins the game of chess.

RED | HORSE

SOCRATES



name

Pythagoras

figure



BISHOP

team - The Idealists



You are a member of The Idealists. Each of the members has a philosophy of his own, but all of you agree on the following statements:

- The senses of the body (eyesight, hearing, touch, smell, taste) are unreliable and delusional
- The most important parts of the universe are invisible and incorporeal.

Your favourite ways of searching for the Truth are:

- logical reasoning
- deep introspection
- intuition and emotions (only if clean)
- collective archetypes
- hidden knowledge of the ancestors

personal objective

You are a senior philosopher, you've been studying the ways of Nature when your today's adversaries were learning to crawl.

You are carrying an old grunge with your childhood companion - Archimedes. He represents the modern, quantitative way of dealing with numbers, you represent the sacred and intuitive approach to mathematics.

It's time to finish this discussion at last, break him in front of the public. You get 1 point if you eliminate Archimedes from the chessboard by your own move.

Keep this objective a secret, otherwise your teammates will figure out that you are following a strategy which is not the most profitable for the team.

group objective

You get 1 point if your team wins the game of chess.

NOTE: If you have drawn the "Traitor Card", your group objective is reversed - you get 1 point if the opposite team wins the game of chess.

RED | BISHOP

PYTHAGORAS



MESSANGES

→ print and cut

Dear Socrates

I've heard about your existential problems.

If there are any mental obstacles (fear, anger, confusion) in your mind, please let me talk to you, we can work it out together.

Life is a beautiful thing and world is a divine place.

It's easy to embrace it if you only let go the negative thinking.

Yours,

Epicurus

Dear Plato,

With full respect,

I figured you out.

Every single line that you wrote about philosophy is bullshit, a smokescreen for priests and sophists.

Accept me to you hidden classes at the Academy, where you share real knowledge to aristocratic insiders.

Otherwise, I will make this public and ruin your career in Athens.

Yours,

Diogenes

Dear Aristotle,

I'm writing to you as a respected man of reason.

I would like to inform you that the intellectual research performed recently in Elea irresistibly proves that movement of objects in physical space is self-contradictory.

For example, Achilles would never overtake a turtle in a running race, an arrow shot by a soldier would never reach its target, as you can read in my latest publication.

Thus, rational knowledge can be applied only to the intelligible world, not to the physical.

I am ready to meet you in person, explain my research in detail and search together for reasonable conclusions.

Yours,

Zeno from Elea