

**Chapter 4 - Assignment 6:
“The Symposium of the Seven Sages” by Plutarch of Chaeronea**

In order for you to answer the following reading comprehension questions, read pages 14–20 in Chapter 4.

1. According to Thales, if you complain about being given an assigned seat, you are insulting someone, and you will make yourself disliked by at least two people.
 - (i) According to Thales, if you complain about being given an assigned seat, who are you insulting?

- (ii) According to Thales, if you complain about being given an assigned seat, who will dislike you?

2. Bias of Priene asked, "How can a ruler ever be a happy person?"

(i) How did Thales of Miletus answer the question?

(ii) How did Anacharsis the Scythian answer the question

(iii) How did Cleobulus of Lindos answer the question?

(iv) How did Pittacus of Mytilene answer the question?

3. In a letter, Amasis asked an unnamed king nine questions, and Thales of Miletus disagreed with each one of the unnamed king's answers to the questions.

(i) Amasis was king of which African country?

(ii) The unnamed king was king of which African country?

- (iii) **FILL IN THE BLANKS:** In the table below, the left-hand column lists each question that the unnamed king was asked by Amasis. In the middle column, write the unnamed king's answer to each question. Then in the right-hand column, write Thales' answer to each question. Fill out the following table.

<u>Amasis' Question:</u>	<u>Unnamed King's Answer:</u>	<u>Thales' Answer:</u>
What is the oldest thing of all?		
What is the greatest thing of all?		
What is the wisest thing of all?		
What is the most beautiful thing of all?		
What is the most common thing of all?		
What is the most helpful thing of all?		
What is the most harmful thing of all?		
What is the strongest thing of all?		
What is the easiest thing of all?		

5. Diocles asked the Seven Sages to share their opinions about what the best home is.
- (i) After the Seven Sages were asked the question by Diocles, how did Aesop make fun of Anacharsis?

 - (ii) How did Anacharsis respond to Aesop's joke?

 - (iii) According to Anacharsis, what makes a home a good and happy home?

 - (iv) According to Solon, what is the best home?

 - (v) According to Bias, what is the best home?

 - (vi) According to Thales, what is the best home?

 - (vii) According to Cleobulus, what is the best home?

 - (viii) According to Pittacus, what is the best home?

 - (ix) According to Chilon, what is the best home?

 - (x) In your opinion, what's the best home? Explain.

6. According to Chilon, sages and fools have different relationships to private property.

- (i) According to Chilon, what's the difference between a sage and a fool?
(Hint: It has to do with ownership and private property.)

- (ii) Cleodorus asked, "If the law has determined how much property a sage should own, then why do the Seven Sages of Greece own an *unequal* amount of property?"

- (i) How did the sage Cleobulus of Lindos answer the question?

- (ii) In his answer to the question, how did Cleobulus make an argument by *analogy*?

- (iii) Do you agree with Cleobulus? Why or why not? Explain.

- (iv) In your opinion, is *inequality* ever *fair*? Why or why not? Explain.

9. According to Solon, mortals must eat food to live, and food cannot exist unless some living thing is killed.

(i) According to Solon, how are humans and *some* beasts different?

(ii) What is vegetarianism? (If you don't know, then look up the word "vegetarian".)

(iii) According to Solon, if it's always unjust for a human being to kill for food, then why is vegetarianism only a *small* way of avoiding injustice?

(iv) According to Solon, if it's always unjust for a human being to kill for food, then what is a more *effective* way of avoiding injustice than vegetarianism?

(v) Do you agree with Solon? Why or why not? Explain.

10. Three of the Delphic Maxims were the *entrance* maxims, because they were the only three maxims inscribed on the temple walls at the entrance to the Temple to Apollo in Delphi.

(a) According to Aesop, whom did Chersias think authored the three entrance maxims?

(b) REVIEW: Which three Delphic Maxims were the entrance maxims?

(i) _____.

(ii) _____.

(iii) _____.