## A PHILOSOPHY LESSON:

## How Not to Teach

Instructor: Nowwewillbeginourlectureonepistemologybyexplainings omeaspectsofcartesianscepticisminthelightoffoucaultsconceptofar chaeologybystatingthatsincerationalexperimyntofmostisatransitor ydevelopmentofustriggercomplexificationandinthefaunevarsearesil fregulatingbottherebusomnuusthepirtofistthemythinwhechauniverse frammuchramodellengesinseparabletilifeanyexistswithbeingfallyan dloveanswuntundorsetasfyactionswhateverargunusmfromdovelopevolutionary. . .

Student 1: Teacher, may I go to the bathroom?

Instructor: Yes do so - and wisdomflowsfromthispropositionforDe scartesthoughtescapescepticismweshoulhaagendastheexistenceofisti nceperceptionstoreliablysureourclaimstoknowledgefarfromsecureyet certainquestionsarenotconcernedwiththewaysthingsultimatelyarebut ratherourknowledgeofthemandthatisbecausetheuneverseofsoftopossib leinderstabandonlongingacitemporineauswullshallbotheawefremwhach waviewrelugionwhichosuppesudtoexistenceandshowstheuncrassrsetoev erathengtotalbeteachlifeisseparotudfrimthuenderstanding.

Student 2: Teacher, I think I need to go to the bathroom, too.

Instructor: Hmm - if there isanexistentialimperativethatimperial istroaderswhofailtoseethewisodomofmaoexistthrutrealpolitikandcla sstrugglesandwallsofsexualitewasamadhouseisolatedtoreasoninwhich intentionbecomeslikeapanopticoninwhichhumanurgesstranglestranger thingsasthebrainmutatesintonewchemistriesforthinkingisanindicati onofnepossiblieniversedevelopungwhuchprocessifitexistsinasensuof chosuppesudtoexistenceandshowstheuncrassrsetoeverathengtotalbete achlifeisseparotudfrimthuenderstandingtwhotexestsspringfremthutrealatyandfarmaccerdswall . . .

Student 3: Err, could you explain next week's homework?

Klangggggggggggggggu! [The class bell]

**Instructor**: Ahh, Pavlov's Bell! Class dismissed. Next week we willconsidertherelationbetweenWittengensteinundmetaphyisicsinlighto fcognitivelinguisticsandpostmorderntheoriesoftextprocessing. Are you clear on this?



*Satoru:* I've been through lessons like this.

*Melissa*: Yeah. Some professors are so engrossed in their own thoughts

that they forget the world around them.

*Liao*: We need a balanced vision: a keen awareness of our audience

as well as a clear idea of our instructional target.

*Tim:* You make it sound as if teaching were a military exercise. . .

*Liao:* In one sense, it is.

## - T Newfields

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