ATENEO

Magisterial Lecture Series
Doing Philosophy
Primary and Secondary Reflection

ANTONETTE PALMA-ANGELES, PhD
PHILOSOPHY DEPARTMENT
Doing Philosophy
Primary and Secondary Reflection

Antonette Palma-Angeles, PhD
OUTLINE

• INTRODUCTION
  What is philosophy
  Life and philosophy

• HOW DO WE PHILOSOPHIZE
  Primary and Secondary Reflection
INTRODUCTION
How do we philosophize?

Paano namimilosopiya?
“Philosophy doesn’t explain life but helps constitute it.”

-Maurice Blondel
Does not explain but helps constitute.
HOW DO I MAKE A BAGUETTE?

**Ingredients:**
- 1 cup sugar
- 2 cups flour
- 1 yeast
- 2 eggs

**Preparation:**
- Knead.
- Let rise.
- Bake.
A baguette is more than its ingredients and baking instructions.

Baking it
Eating it
Similarly, what is life?

- A journey of ups and downs
- Stages: infancy, childhood, adulthood, old age
- Career, religion, etc.
What is life, really?

- Our everyday mundane experiences
- The small and big decisions we make

These MAKE a life!!!
“Lundagin mo, baby!”

-Roque J. Ferriols, SJ
How does Philosophy help us “live” life?
Philosophical reflection
Pag-ninilay
HOW DO WE PHILOSOPHIZE?
Primary and Secondary Reflection
• **Primary reflection**: dissolves the unity of experience, event, thing, etc. and analyzes the parts.

• **Secondary reflection**: puts together what has been broken apart; locates it in the bigger scheme of things.
Let’s do it on
Who am I?
Primary reflection: dissects an event, experience, a thing, etc. into its constituent parts and analyzes these.
Who am I?

Instinctively:
Antonette Palma-Angeles
Batch 77, first batch of coeds
Married with 3 children
Catholic
But am I all these categories singly or even all of them together?

- No!
- All categories also apply to others.
- Are meaningful only in relation to others. e.g., female, married, Atenean
I am more than all the categories combined.

Higit pa ako riyan.
Paano nga ako naiiba sa iba?
Who am I beyond these categories?
What can I say about this I?
What is happening here?

- I – object
- I - subject looking at
  I - object
What can I say about this I-subject when I can’t go behind it?
Look at these experiences

• A boy makes me feel special by paying attention to me.
• The warm feeling of belonging when I am surrounded by family.
• The feeling of peace after I’ve resolved a personal crisis.
• Finally figuring out why I dislike a person tremendously.
In these moments

• I feel a strong sense of SELF.

• But I cannot capture and describe them in same degree that I capture my gender and religion.

• Di ko lubusang mahawakan pero ramdam na ramdam ko ang pagka-AKO.
Tumitingkad ang pagka-AKO sa pakikipagkapwa-tao.
This I-subject emerges ONLY in its relation to others!
Only in relation do I discover

I exist!

Bulaga! Eto ako!
• Exclamatory awareness of existence.

• But I can’t go behind these, not in any explanatory way.
So who is the total I?

- I am the identifiable, “speakable” categories.  
  *Primary reflection*

- I am the I that emerges in my many relations with others.  
  *Communion*  
  *Secondary reflection*
• **Primary reflection**: dissolves the unity of experience by analyzing the parts.

• **Secondary reflection**: puts together what has been broken apart; locates it in the bigger scheme of things.