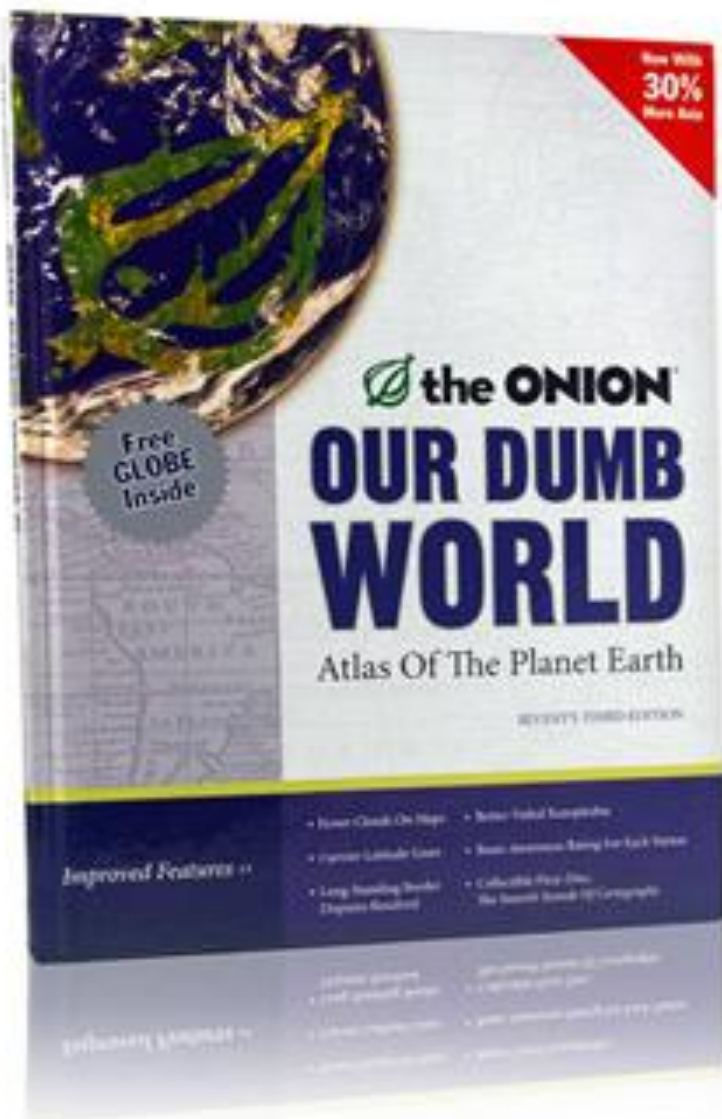


# THE ATHENIAN ENLIGHTENMENT



# FRANCE

**“One Nation Above God”**

# PORTUGAL

**“Still Searching for India”**

# KYRGESTAN

“They Are Called “Kyrgyz,” And it Only Goes Downhill from There.”

# GERMANY

**“Genocide Free Since April 11,  
1946!”**

# CANADA

“For the United States, See pp. 9-22.”

# GREECE

“2500 Years Past its Prime.”

# PART ONE

## **The Athenian Enlightenment and the Celebration of Reason**

# IRREVERENCE

- ⦿ Rejecting the divine as a means of explaining the world.
- ⦿ Rejecting myth, religion, and other authorities as a basis for beliefs about life's deepest questions.

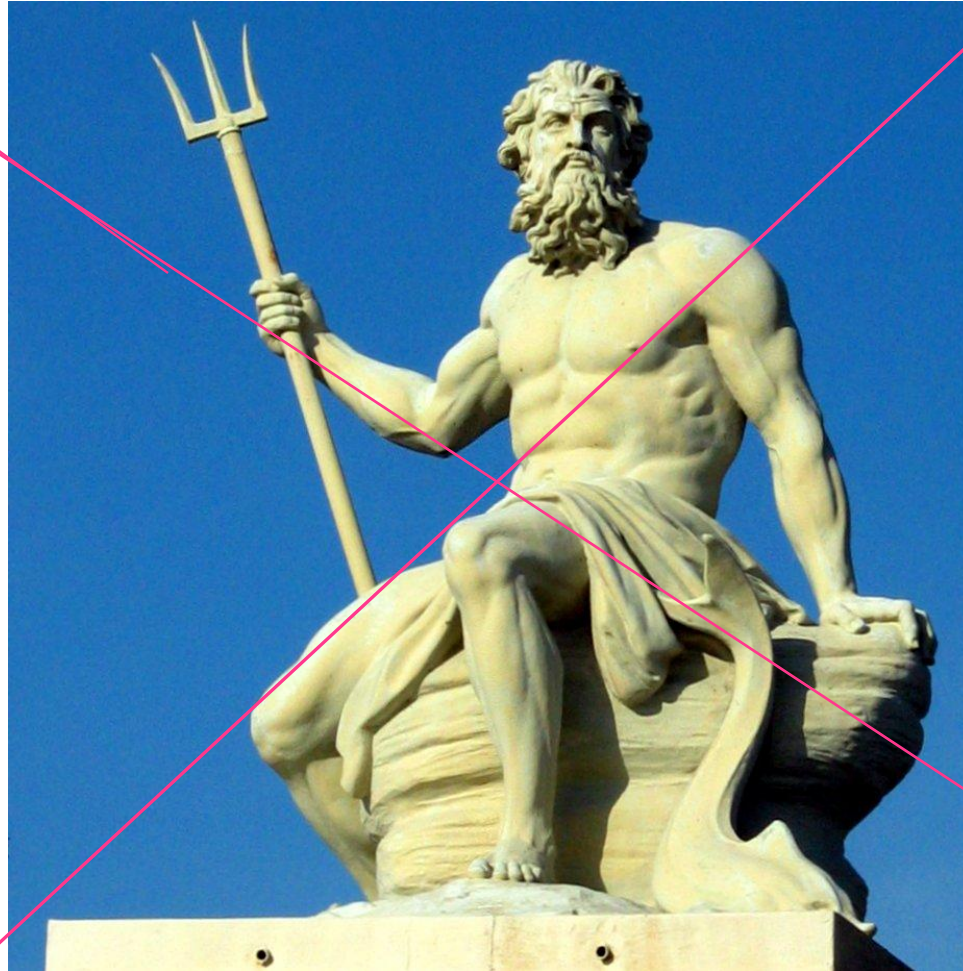
# LIFE'S DEEP QUESTIONS

- ◉ How the world was created?
- ◉ What is the earth made out of?
- ◉ What causes illness and death?
- ◉ What causes rain? Earthquakes? Rainbows?  
Planetary motion?

# LIFE'S DEEP QUESTIONS

- ◉ What's the right way to live?
- ◉ What is the nature of justice?
- ◉ What is goodness?
- ◉ What is the best way to run a *Polis*?

# ABANDONING DIVINE EXPLANATION



# ABANDONING DIVINE EXPLANATION: COSTS AND BENEFITS

- ◎ Discovering natural causes is *hard*. Takes patience, discipline, effort. Human beings are lazy.
- ◎ Loss of Certainty.

# BUT...

- ◉ Divine accounts have no order or pattern.
- ◉ The World of the Gods is *unintelligible*.
- ◉ Human Beings Lack Control over their fates.

# BENEFITS OF NATURAL INVESTIGATION

**Potential for..**

- 1. Ordered explanations**
- 2. Prediction.**
- 3. Prevention/treatment**
- 4. Surprising Discovery and Innovation.**

**Greater Control over our lives and fates.**

# INNOVATION: AN EXAMPLE



## PART II

# Mathematics—The Best of All Worlds

# BREAKTHROUGHS: A SMALL SAMPLE

- ◎ The Golden Ratio,
  - ◎ The Pythagorean Theorem
  - ◎ Pi
  - ◎ Euclidean Geometry.
- 
- ◎ Regularities, general principles that govern abstract numbers and shapes.

# THE ADVANTAGES OF MATHEMATICS

- ⊙ Ordered explanation.
- ⊙ Innovation.
- ⊙ Prediction

And...

- ⊙ Certainty!

MY PREDICTION

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# THE DREAM

- ⦿ Identifying the laws that govern human behavior, human interaction with *the same degree of certainty* that we have in mathematics.
- ⦿ Discovering the nature or essence of justice, goodness, and the ideal city with *the same precision* as the circle or the right triangle.

# PART III: SOCRATES AND PLATO

