



PYTHAGORAS

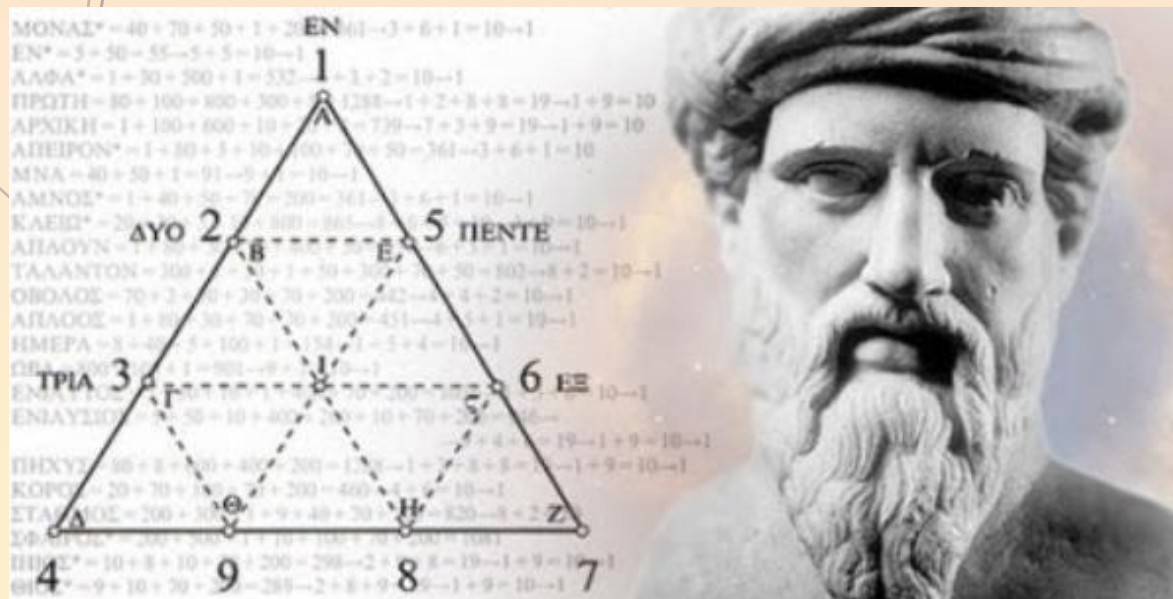
STUDENTS:

- **GIOTOPOULOU PANAGIOTA**
- **KOFOU ANNA-MARIA**
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- **GOTSOPOULOU GEORGIA**

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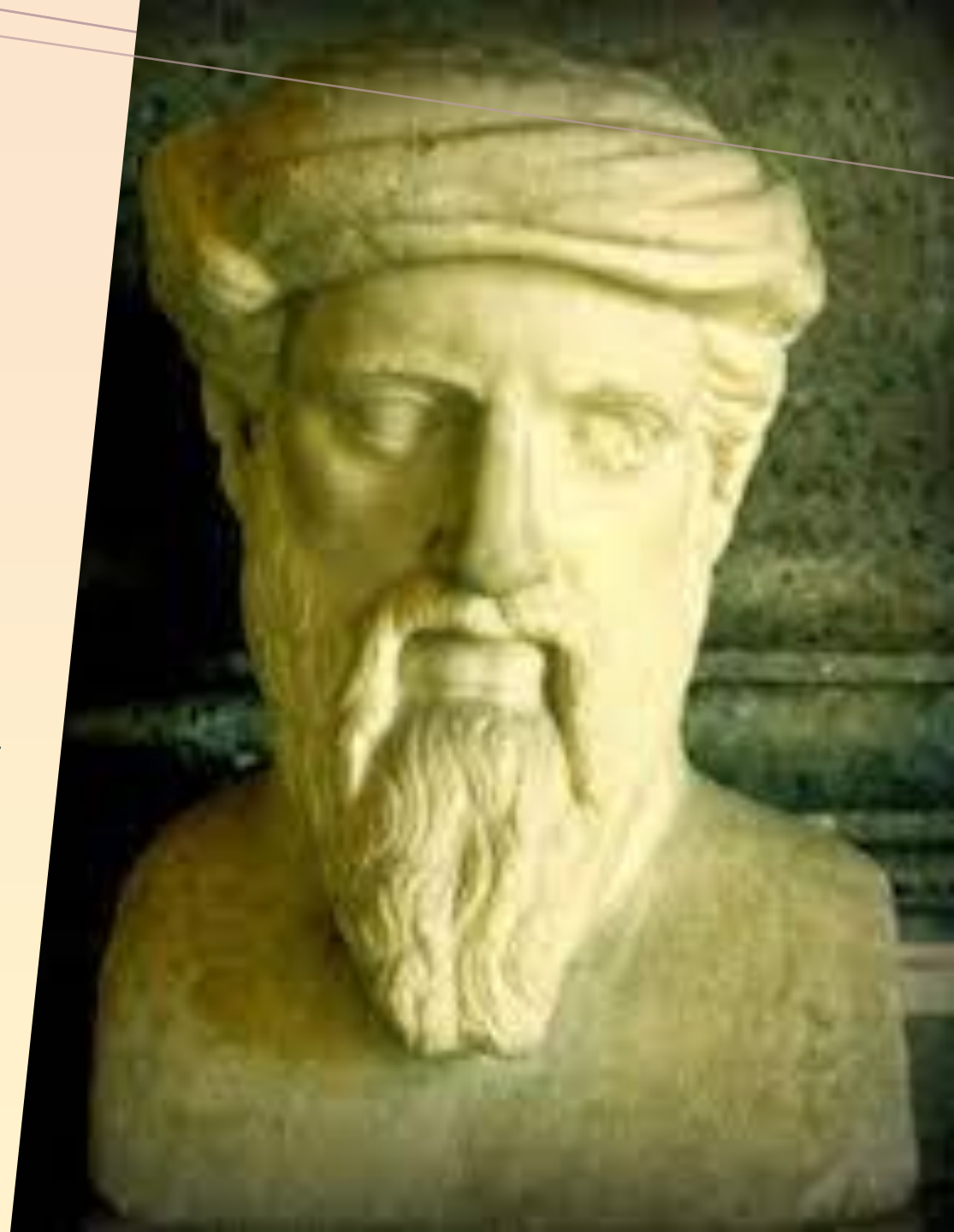
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THE LIFE OF PYTHAGORAS



Pythagoras was born in Samos around 580 BC. and died in Metapontio in Lower Italy around 500 BC. So Pythagoras was the son of Menesarchus, who was a ring-maker. His family had slaves and among them the Thracian slave Salmoxis. It is said that he traveled to Egypt and learned the Egyptian language and studied the sacred books of the Egyptians, especially those on the immortality of the soul and transmigration. He traveled to Persia where he deepened his knowledge of mathematics and to India. It is also said that he studied under Pherekydis in Lesvos, and under Thales and Anaximandros in Miletos in M. Asia.

Nevertheless, Kylon, scion of one of the old families of Croton, approached Pythagoras and asked him to share the Pythagorean way of life, but he rejected him, with the result that this occasion revealed the deeper motives of the conflict of the democrats against the aristocratic Pythagoreans. Thus, while Pythagoras was already 80 years old, a strike group under Kylons set fire to the house where the most prominent of the Pythagoreans were meeting, and burned most of them alive. It seems that similar persecutions took place in other cities of Lower Italy. Pythagoras himself was forced to take refuge in Metapontium, where he died shortly afterwards.

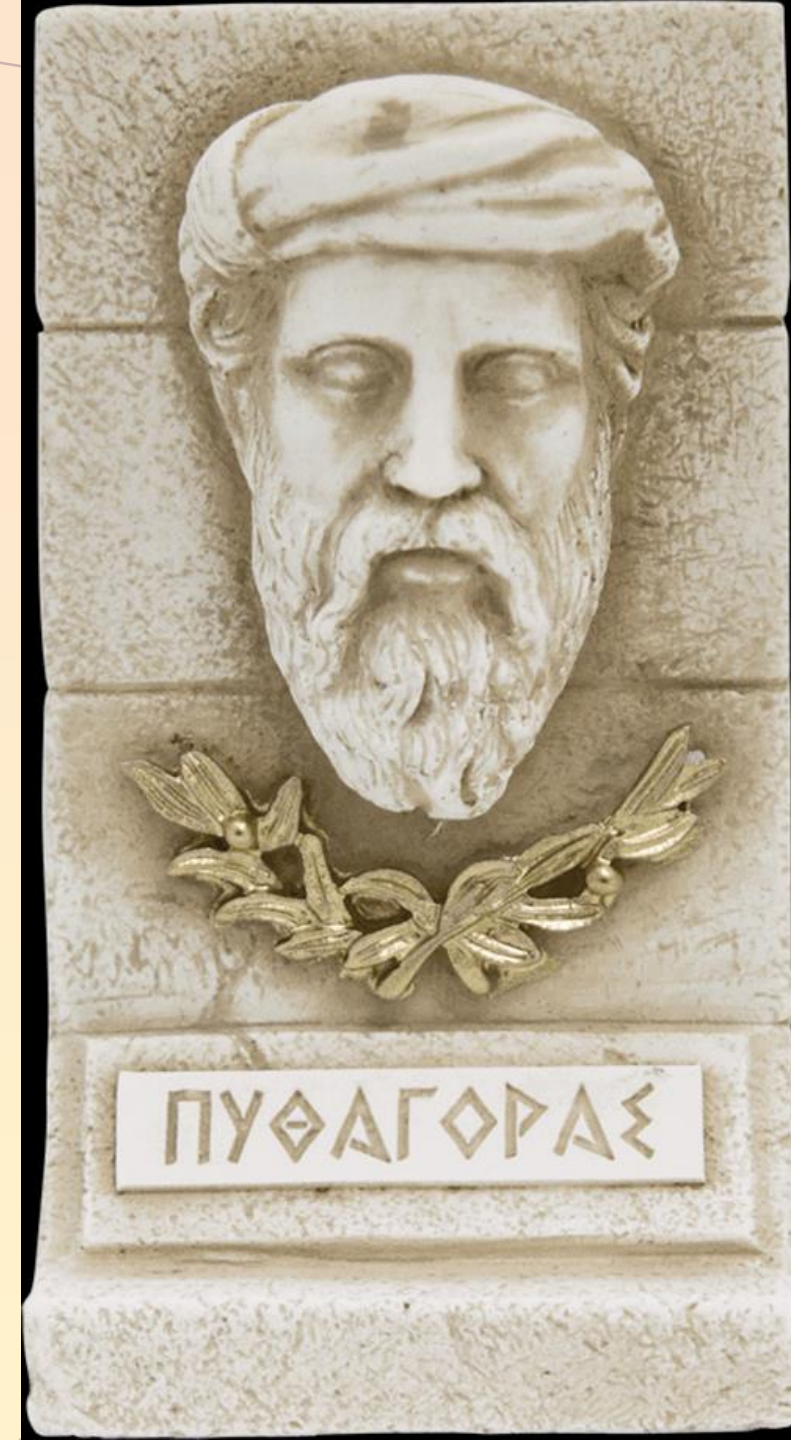


THE PHILOSOPHY OF PYTHAGORAS



The fascination and difficulty in searching for the person of Pythagoras and the essence of Pythagoreanism is due to two reasons: first, that there probably never was any book proven to be his, and second, that both his life and his actual teaching move more in the mist of myth rather than in the light of history. The history of ancient science accepts that even his eponymous geometric theorem was known before him. Some of Pythagoras' zealots and rivals were: Heraclitus, Plato and Aristotle, but there were also philosophers who admired Pythagoras such as Empedocles , Herodotus, Isocrates, etc.

From the 9 chapters of his work (1. The Pythagorean question, 2. Pythagoras and the way of life, 3. Pythagorean philosophy before Plato, 4. Pythagorean philosophy at the time of Archytas and Plato, 5. Neopythagorean philosophy in the First Academy, 6. The survival of Pythagoreanism in the Hellenistic era, 7. The Pythagorean tradition in Rome, 8. The Neo-Pythagorean philosophers and 9. The Pythagorean heritage) the ninth and last is of greatest interest. Thus we learn that from the point of view of the positive sciences, the new physics is implicitly compatible with Pythagoreanism, and that Kepler was the last scientist who could be genuinely Pythagorean in his strict (Platonic) "Timaeus" tradition, discovering the order of nature in regular solids and in musical proportions.



The operation of the Pythagorean School and its rules

Pythagoras left no written work and all the information we have about the functioning of his school is from writers who recorded human testimonies. It seems that at first his school was a religious association centered on himself whom some considered to be the son of Apollo. Later, it was organized into a school, which accepted students of all ages. He not only taught boys, but also taught married women.



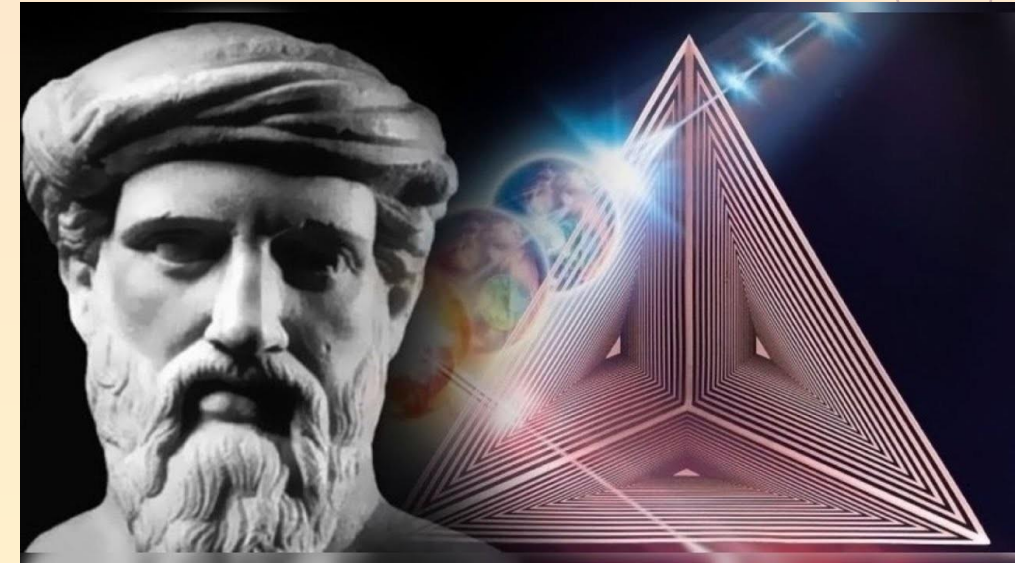
Pythagoras laid down some rules of conduct:

- 1) The students learned in silence and secrecy.
- 2) Strict discipline prevailed among the students.
- 3) Students had to wear white clothing.
- 4) Ascetic rules were applied.
- 5) Co-ownership of their properties among the members.
- 6) Drawing up the daily schedule.
- 7) Students' self-control: What did I do? What didn't I do? What was I supposed to do?
- 8) Respect for gods and parents.
- 9) Equality of men and women.
- 10) Piety, devotion, moderation, self-discipline.
- 11) The students' knowledge was their property, which they were not allowed to transmit.



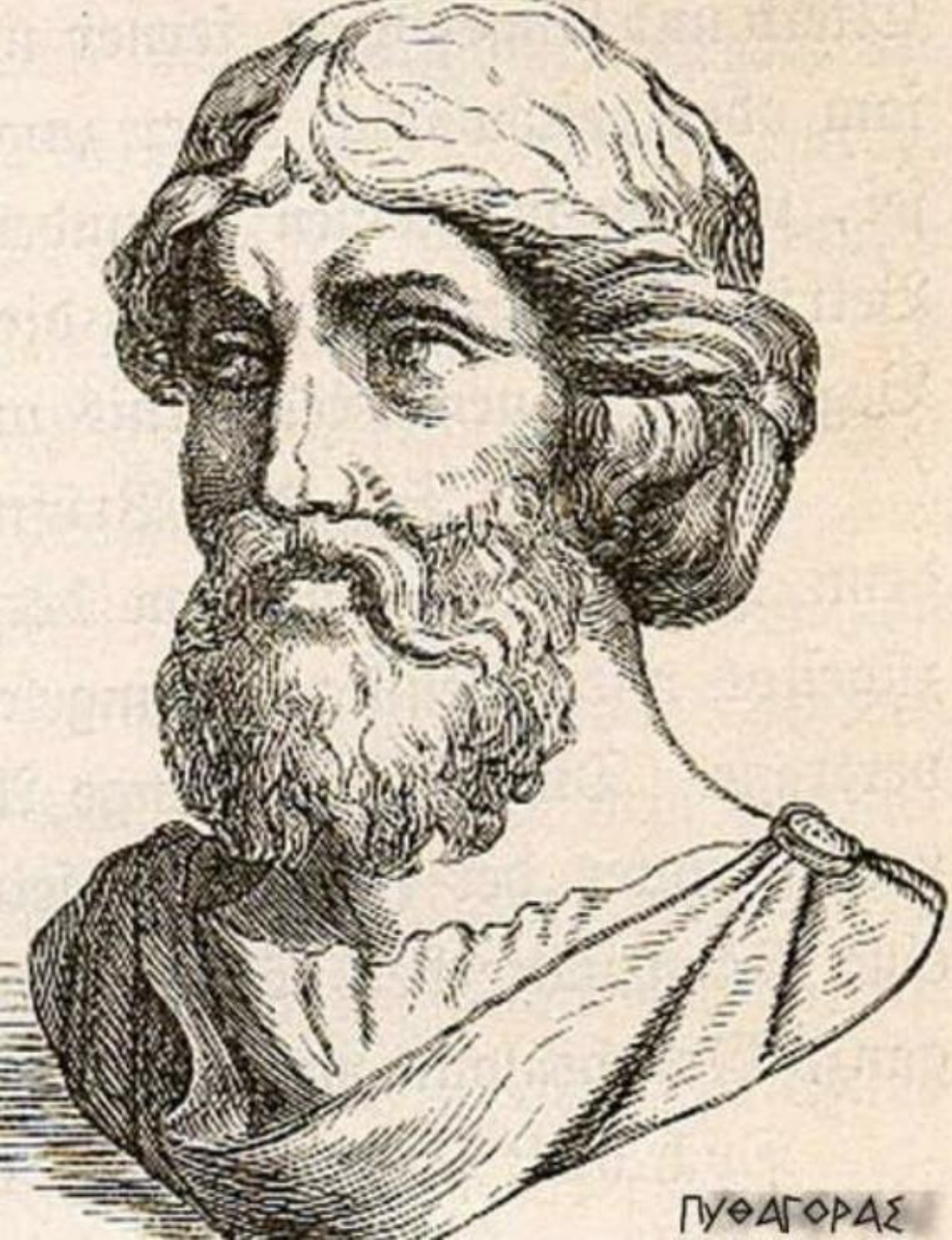
THE FORM OF PYTHAGORAS IN THE ANCIENT TRADITION

Pythagoras is the first Greek philosopher to found a school. And even a school that reminds more of a closed religious brotherhood than a philosophical school. He wrote nothing himself - most likely consciously. He based his teaching on live contact with his students, projecting his own exemplary way of life and establishing strict rules of behavior and faith, which ensured the initiation of new members and the cohesion of the Pythagorean community. The school of Pythagoras proved to be the most enduring philosophical school of the ancient world. The Pythagorean communities experienced moments of particular glory and moments of decline, but they never ceased to exist, even after the end of Greek antiquity.



The coherence that characterizes them and explains their longevity is not due to a strictly defined theoretical framework. From a very early date, Pythagorean philosophy mixed with other related philosophical trends, and especially with Platonism. More important to the Pythagoreans was the defense of a certain way of life, supposedly introduced by the founder of their school himself. It was therefore necessary to preserve and enrich the myth of Pythagoras' exemplary life, so that it would be a lasting example for his younger followers to emulate.





The details of Pythagoras' life are therefore so patchy and unreliable that some skeptics have gone so far as to doubt his very historical existence. But this is an exaggeration, since the name of Pythagoras is mentioned in very old authors, such as his contemporary Xenophanes and the slightly later Heraclitus, Herodotus and Empedocles.

SOURCES

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THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR WATCHING!

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