Text 2: The Question of Absolute Truth

Summary

Text 2 examines the philosophical and social significance of absolute truth—defined as a reality that holds independently and universally, without exception—and explores its relationship with truth (the correspondence between knowledge and reality) and dogma (an imposed doctrine or proposition).

While simple logical examples (such as "2 + 2 = 4") are clear and absolutely true, human interpretative capacity falls short when dealing with more complex ethical and social questions, resulting in a multiplicity of opinions.

This creates a tension between dogmatism (the assumption that human beings can attain absolute certainty) and skepticism or criticism, as exemplified by Immanuel Kant, who advocates the suspension of judgement.

In social practice, this dynamic manifests itself in the tension between pluralism and relativism on the one hand, and an authoritarian teaching authority on the other. This is illustrated through debates about the extent to which a personal judgement of conscience may diverge from official dogmas or guidelines.