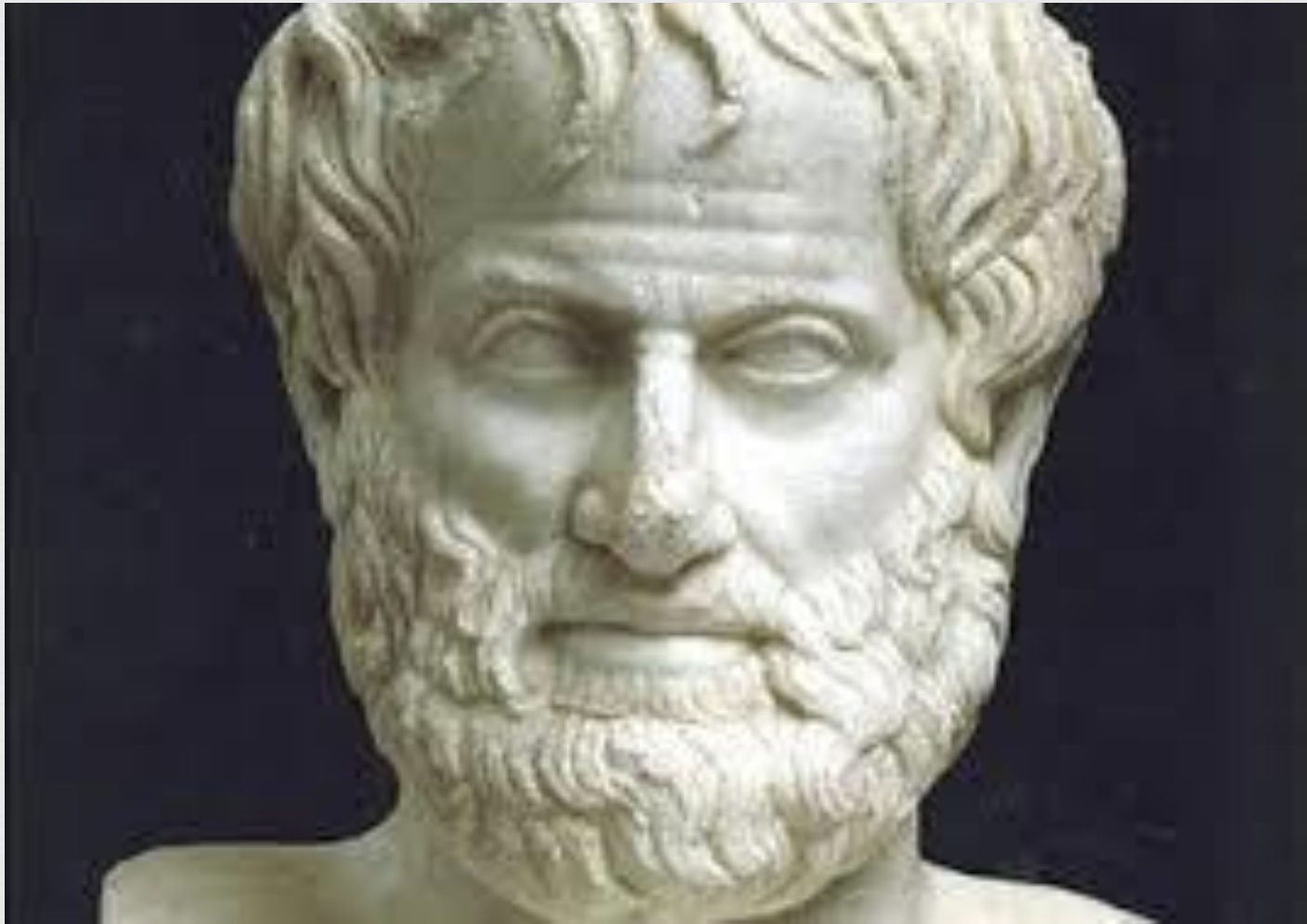




# ☞ Aristotle Poetics



# Aristotle



✧ Aristotle, the ancient Greek philosopher, was born in Stagira, Greece, around 384 B.C. He joined in Plato's Academy upon turning 17. He started teaching Alexander the Great in 338. Aristotle spent the most of the remainder of his life researching, teaching, and writing at the Lyceum, which he founded in Athens in 335. Aristotle departed Athens and escaped to Chalcis, where he eventually perished in 322 BC.

# Aristotle



- ❧ Plato challenged Aristotle to prove that poetry was not only enjoyable but also beneficial to humanity.
- ❧ Although he does not mention Plato by name, a large portion of the Poetics is a response to his great master.
- ❧ According to Aristotle, poetry molds a person's personality.

# Aristotle



- ❧ *According to Aristotle, the world of the poet or artist was not a shadow of shadows, but rather the real reality enhanced by the creative vision.*
- ❧ *The act of imitation is creative. While mimicking reality, the poet creates something entirely unique and elevated. "An imitation of an action that is serious, complete, and of a certain magnitude" is how he describes tragedy.*
- ❧ *He continues by thinking about the components of a standard tragedy, which include the story, the character, the diction, the concept, the spectacle, and the song.*

# Plato and Aristotle



- ❧ Aristotle compared poetry to music, whereas Plato compared it to art. Plato claims that poetry and painting are just imitations of outward appearances, whereas Aristotle asserts that poetry also mimics inward feelings and experiences.
- ❧ Poetry, according to Plato, is a replica of nature as it is. Aristotle believed that poetry may mimic people for better or worse. Poetry is more interested in what should be than in what is. Poetry presents a romanticized picture of the world..

# Plato and Aristotle



☞ Poetry was rejected by Plato for moral, intellectual, and emotional reasons. Aristotle addresses each of Plato's criticisms one by one and provides an intellectual, emotional, and moral defense of poetry. He is the first to use the word "katharsis" in relation to tragedy, and this is a really creative and poignant passage from the poetry. In Plato, we find no analogous theory. Aristotle is able to illustrate the beneficial influence that poetry, in general, and tragedy, in particular, has over the emotions through the theory of Katharsis..