



What is Enlightenment?

-By Immanuel Kant

Age of Enlightenment

- It was a philosophical movement which dominated the world of ideas in the 18th century.
 - The principal goals of this period were liberty, progress, reason, tolerance, fraternity and ending the abuses of the Church and the State.





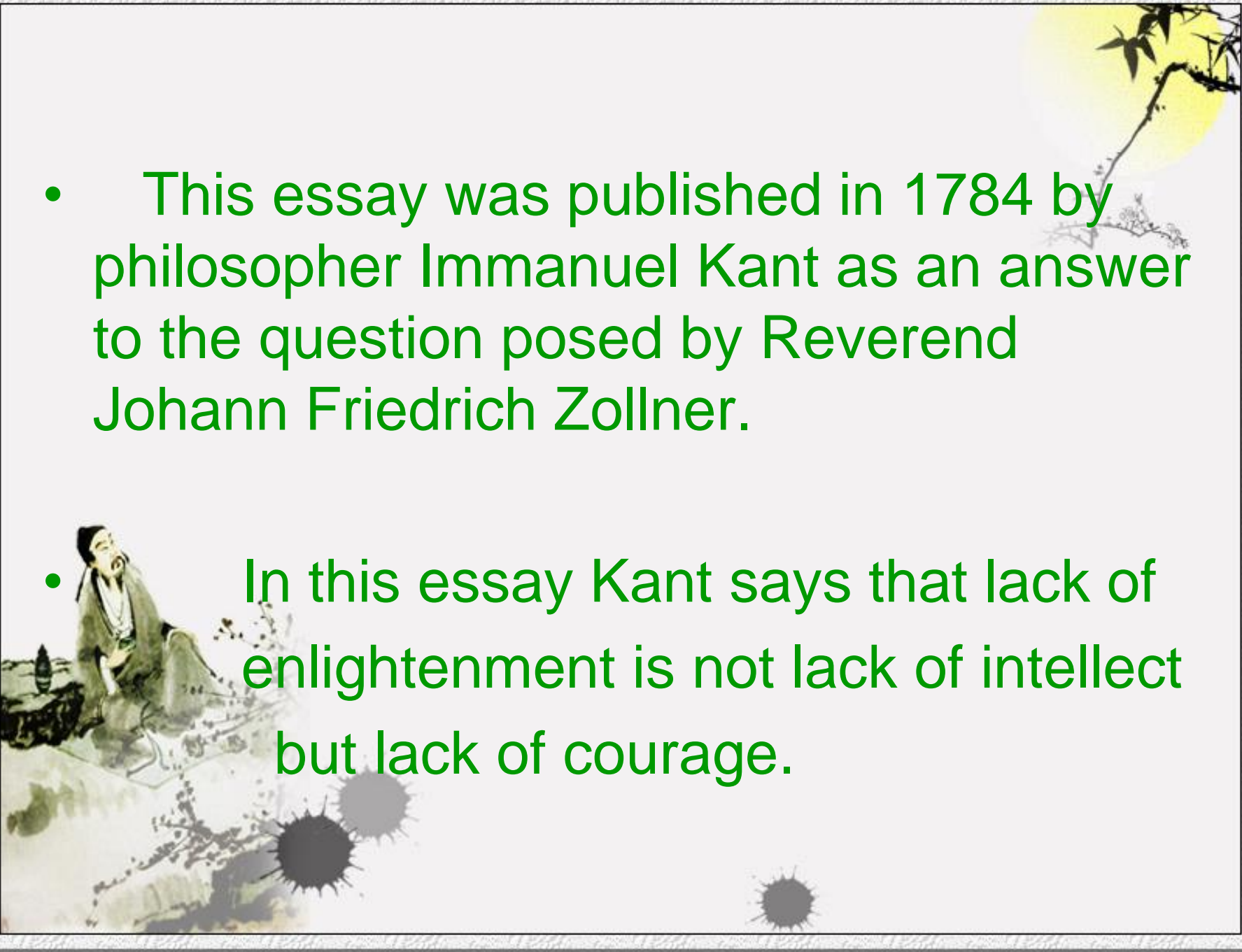
- Immanuel Kant (1724-1804) was a German philosopher who was considered as the central figure of modern philosophy.



- Kant's essay addresses the causes for lack of enlightenment and the preconditions necessary for people to enlighten themselves.

- It is necessary for people to throw away their spoon-fed dogmas and formulas that they have absorbed so that they are intellectually autonomous.



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- This essay was published in 1784 by philosopher Immanuel Kant as an answer to the question posed by Reverend Johann Friedrich Zollner.

- In this essay Kant says that lack of enlightenment is not lack of intellect but lack of courage.

- This is the first page of the 1799 edition of the essay.



„Aufklärung ist der Ausgang des Menschen aus seiner selbst verschuldeten Unmündigkeit. Unmündigkeit ist das Unvermögen, sich seines Verstandes ohne Leitung eines andern zu bedienen. Selbst verschuldet ist diese Unmündigkeit, wenn die Ursache derselben nicht am Mangel des Verstandes, sondern der Entschließung und des Muthes liegt, sich seiner ohne Leitung eines andern zu bedienen. Sapere aude! Habe Muth, dich deines eigenen Verstandes zu bedienen! ist also der Wahlspruch der Aufklärung.

Faulheit und Feigheit sind die Ursachen, warum ein so großer Theil der Menschen, nachdem sie die Natur längst von fremder Leitung frei gesprochen (naturaliter majorennis), dennoch gerne Zeit Lebens unmündig bleiben; und warum es Anderen so leicht wird, sich zu deren Vormündern aufzuwerfen. Es ist so bequem, unmündig zu seyn. Habe ich ein Buch, das für mich Verstand hat, einen Seelsorger, der für mich Gewissen hat, einen Arzt, der für mich die Diät beurtheilt, u. s. w., so brauche ich mich ja nicht selbst zu bemühen.

Philosopher Immanuel Kant

“Enlightenment is man’s emergence from his self-incurred immaturity. Immaturity is the inability to use one’s own understanding without the guidance of another. This immaturity is self-incurred if its cause is not lack of understanding, but lack of resolution and courage to use it without the guidance of another. The motto of enlightenment is therefore: Sapere aude! Have courage to use your own understanding!”



"All our knowledge begins with the senses, proceeds then to the understanding, and ends with reason. There is nothing higher than reason."

Immanuel Kant

- Kant says that majority of the people of the society are content to follow the guiding institutions of the society like the Church and the Monarchy.
- He also says that people are uncomfortable to be thinking for themselves and always want someone else to dictate what should be done.



- Kant says that religion involves following a number of set doctrines or rules which prevents the enlightenment of mankind.
- Kant also says that the monarch should allow his subjects to do or think whatever they find necessary.
- He also says that the King should
- give freedom to the arts and sciences.

