Significance of this shift

The next chapter investigates the contribution the difference makes to a view of knowledge. Essentially, knowledge is a matter of difference. The shift from the traditional to postmodern perspective is significant in many ways.

Changes in the 17th century

In Western philosophy, from 1635 to 1960, there were two dominant epistemologies: Descartes' and Spinoza's. These epistemologies emphasized different aspects of knowledge. The former placed emphasis on the individual's ability to doubt and reflect, while the latter focused on the universal and necessary aspects of reality. The shift from Cartesian to Spinozist epistemology had significant implications for the understanding of knowledge.

Box 4: Ancient Greek cases

The work of the Indian philosopher, Dhammapada, from 770 CE, is relevant to the topic of the discovery.