



## Transcript ◀

### **Brilliant Minds Podcast #2: 09/27/09**

<http://www.brilliantminds.info/2009/09/helen-the-5-big-questions.html>

Over the Summer during the first of our August Classes, I introduced the idea that every Great Book asks and answers all of the following 5 Big Questions of life.

Those 5 Big Questions are:

1. Who am I?
2. Why am I here?
3. What kind of a world is this?
4. What is my place in it?
5. What do I do about it?

We can apply this to *Helen* by Euripides, and consider these possible answers:

1. Who am I? *I am a mortal with limited knowledge, subject to fate and the gods.*
2. Why am I here? *I am fighting to survive and to preserve my honor, my reputation, and to gain glory. I am here to be recognized.*
3. What kind of a world is this? *It is a world of unreliable appearances, full of deceit and injustice, but it is also a world of free will, possibilities, and opportunity.*
4. What is my place in it? *My place depends entirely on my relationships with others, whether they are gods, society, or family. I am responsible for my actions.*
5. What do I do about it? *I am to respect the gods and to use all my physical & mental resources to achieve my goals through strategic thought, speech, & action.*

How would you answer these questions, based on your reading of the play?