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Topic: Ethics

Socrates believed that there are three main ways to define “the good”

1. Intrinsically good-this consists of things that are good in themselves, the focus is not on the results nor consequences they produce but on mere ownership
2. Instrumental good-this form of good entails things that are good for both their results and consequences. This category of good requires a sacrifice to enjoy the good, whereby a condition is set.
3. The highest good represents the things that are good in themselves, results-oriented goods.

One stormy day while Gyges the shepherd was tending his sheep, an earthquake appeared causing the earth to open which Gyges descended. While down there he discovered a dead body with a ring on his finger, so he took it off the finger of the dead body and placed it on his finger. While he was at a shepherd's meeting, Gyges overheard the other shepherds gossiping about him as if he was not there. But then he realized that turning the ring had made him invisible. Once Gyges came to the realization that he had this power, he utilized it as a tool to take over the kingdom, seduced the queen, killed the king, and pursue his desires for power and pleasure

Glaucon and Adeimantus use this story to show that If no penalty is attached to immoral behavior, none of us would have adhered to the principles of being moral. We are all susceptible to the corruption that exists with power.

Glaucon and Adeimantus believed that the unjust life is the ultimate life of man. They argued that all of humanity shares a common belief that injustice births a higher percentage of profit than justice. I do agree with this theory because in my opinion we were all created with that inner desire to attain power. Thus if this can be obtained without revelation of any unjust act, we all as humans will succumb to that inner desire to gain that power,.

According to Aristotle, happiness(eudaimonia) is the ultimate end of mankind, it's a life that is filled with happiness that flourishes and exists in a long-term state, a complete life.

Aristotle argued that in an effort to determine if you are functioning well, you first have to identify your function. This requires you to be able to measure your purpose.

According to Aristotle “disposition” which is a characteristic of virtue is a habit that resides in our character and relies on both our capacities and emotions to excel.

Aristotle believed that virtue represents a character trait/quality that enables us to excel in a given function. Virtue is gained through constant practice and by mimicking moral patterns.

Aristotle believed that virtue is like a mean upon which two extremes are hinged. The two extremes represent the deficiency and excess of virtue . Below is an illustration of virtue as a mean

Deficiency	mean	excess
selfish	generosity	squander