

Carla Harewood

Professor Jeffrey Dueck

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### Reading Questions Week 5

#### **Plato, *Morality, and Happiness* (pp 487-492)**

1. Socrates believes that we consider these three things to be good. These beliefs include that some things are good in themselves, which refers to something with no follow-up, such as pleasures or enjoyments. Another good would be anything desirable for their results, such as knowledge, health, and sight. And lastly, those things that do us good and are regarded as disagreeable where the outcome has a reward comes out of doing it.

2. The “Ring of Gyges” is a story based on a shepherd by then name of Gyges who was the ancestor of Croesus the Lydian. After a massive earthquake a cave like opening in the Earth attracted Gyges to it where it led him inside to a “hallow brazen horse” with doors. As he approached the horse, he noticed the doors leading to entry into the horse where he came across a naked dead bodily structure that wore only a ring. Gyges took the ring off the body exited the cave. As he turned the bezel of the ring towards him at a monthly meeting he attended, Gyges noticed that he was able to turn invisible depending on how he turned the ring while it was on his finger. Once he realized that he possessed this quality he entered the King’s court he used his abilities to seduced the Queen, kill the king, and take over the kingdom. Using this story, Glaucon is ultimately trying to make the point that we behave justly because of the fear of getting caught.

3. Glaucon and Adeimantus ultimately think that a person who lives an unjust life with a reputation for justice is the best life for a man. We pursue it by living in a fearful manner within society. I agree that by being fearful it allows for us to maintain a healthier mental lifestyle and increases the positivity that is reachable to us if we all decided to think about consequences or judgements when we do wrong.

#### **Aristotle, “*Ethical Value*” (pp 492-495)**

1. The "happiness" Aristotle thinks is the ultimate end for man's pursuits is practicing to be a morally good person. Living “in accordance with virtue” was the key to being happy both mentally and in the physical sense; an end goal that everybody should have.

2. Aristotle says that the function of human being is rational activity. This means that as we live our daily lives in decision making, we should use sensible judgement that would logically within what we consider to be truths.

3. Aristotle feels that feelings, capacities, and dispositions are the three conditions arising in the soul. When Aristotle said that virtue is a disposition, and not just a feeling or a capacity he is showing us that our feelings do not make up who we are but rather the result of the feeling. The example of being angry was given in the text stating that if we are vulnerable to the emotions that come from being angry such as it causing us to be weak minded then we are in a bad way.

4. We gain virtue by the choices we face and have to make each day. Habitual behavior helps to shape us instead of just receiving simple instructions to follow.

5. Virtue is balance between two extremes of too much or too little. For example, the idea of somebody who is considered a coward. This person never speaks up for themselves or defends any rights they have because they don't feel the need to face any drama that finds its way to them. On the other hand, there is the example of a person who is the complete opposite and is a ticking time bomb in all responses. Courage would be the mean that Aristotle would say is between the two. When you are not too much of one and too much of the other you possess the balance in between being a coward and a ticking time bomb. This is who is considered virtuous because of the balance that the person finds to not take on too much of each character.