

Alex Camilo

Philosophy

Plato/Aristotle

Plato, "Morality and Happiness" – pp. 487-492

1. Socrates believes that there are three ways in which we consider things to be good. Firstly, some things are good in and of themselves, regardless of their consequences. Secondly, some things are good because of the benefits or consequences that they provide, regardless of their intrinsic value. Lastly, some things are both good in themselves and good for their consequences.
2. The "Ring of Gyges" story is about a shepherd who discovers a ring that gives him the power of invisibility. With this power, he acts unjustly by seducing the queen, killing the king, and taking over the kingdom. Glaucon uses this story to argue that if people had the same power as Gyges, they would behave unjustly because they are inherently selfish. Glaucon's ultimate point is that people are only just because they fear punishment or desire a good reputation.
3. Glaucon and Adeimantus believe that the best life for a man is one of fame, power, and wealth. They argue that justice is only followed for the sake of reputation, and people

would act unjustly if they could get away with it. They suggest that the pursuit of pleasure should not be the ultimate goal, but rather the pursuit of what brings the most happiness. However, this view is based on the assumption that people are inherently selfish and that justice is not worth following for its own sake. I disagree with this view, as I believe that people can act justly for its own sake, and that virtue is worth pursuing regardless of the consequences.

Aristotle, “Ethical Virtue” – pp. 492-495

1. Aristotle argues that the ultimate end for man's pursuits is eudaimonia, or happiness. This is not just pleasure, but a state in which a person is fulfilling their potential and living a virtuous life.
2. According to Aristotle, the function of a human being is to reason and use rationality to achieve their goals. Humans are unique in their ability to reason, which sets them apart from other animals.
3. Aristotle explains that virtue is a disposition, which is acquired through habituation and practice. It is not just a feeling or a capacity, but something that is ingrained in a person's character.
4. Aristotle suggests that we gain virtue through repetition and practice. By repeatedly performing virtuous actions, we develop virtuous habits and become virtuous.

5. Virtue is like a mean, as it is a balance point between excess and deficiency. For example, the virtue of courage is a balance between cowardice and recklessness. A courageous person is not afraid to face danger, but they also do not take unnecessary risks. Virtue is a way of finding the right balance in life, which leads to a happy and fulfilling life.