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PHI101: Introduction to Philosophy: OA

April 7th, 2023

## **Essay 2**

Virtue ethics, as a moral theory, has its roots in the ancient Greek tradition of philosophical inquiry. At the center of this ethical framework is the concept of the virtuous person, a person who possesses excellent character traits. These character traits, known as virtues, are qualities and abilities that enable a person to act well as a human being. Examples of such virtues include wisdom or prudence, fortitude, justice, and generosity.

Virtue ethics attempts to answer ethical questions by asking what a virtuous person would do in each situation. This approach stands in contrast to other ethical frameworks, such as deontological ethics or utilitarian ethics, which emphasize rules or the consequences of actions, respectively.

One of the most famous thinkers associated with virtue ethics is Aristotle. He believed that the pursuit of virtue was essential to achieving happiness, or eudaimonia, which he understood as a successful life as a whole. According to Aristotle, ethical virtues must arise from habit, as humans do not have them by nature. Thus, ethical virtues are created in humans by learning to acquire them and making them a habit.

Aristotle also believed that the key to virtuous action was finding the right balance, or "the middle and measure." This meant that a person should neither be cowardly nor foolhardy, but brave; neither stingy nor wasteful, but generous. Aristotle saw man as a political being who cannot live without society, but he also believed that women were inferior to men.

Despite its many strengths, virtue ethics has been criticized for not providing concrete answers to ethical problems. Virtue ethics does not offer rules or principles to apply to ethical dilemmas. However, proponents of virtue ethics argue that the theory's strength lies precisely in its alleged lack of specificity. What virtue ethics lacks in concrete guidance, it makes up for by giving us guidance on how to become better at life: by acquiring good character traits that we see in special people or by getting rid of bad character traits that we in turn see in bad people.

In conclusion, virtue ethics focuses on the individual human being and asks what basic attitudes motivate them to behave well. It is an ethical theory that is oriented to the concrete example of virtuous people and considers the values of good and evil as too abstract for orientation. The pursuit of virtue is essential to achieving eudaimonia, or a successful life as a whole. While virtue ethics may not provide concrete answers to ethical dilemmas, it offers guidance on how to become a better person and make the right decisions in one's life.