

Republic Book II

Glaucon (Plato's brother) picks up the point and wonders *what kind of good* justice is. Three kinds of goods:

1. Good for itself (happiness)

2. Good for itself and for another good (health)

3. Good only for another good (wealth)

Two Reasons to Think It is 3rd kind of Good (Not the Best Kind)

First Reason:

Ring of Gyges

Glaucon says that since if people could get away with being unjust (consider the story of a ring which can make people invisible) they would do so, this proves no one chooses Justice *for its own sake*.



Two Reasons to Think It is 3rd kind of Good (Not the Best Kind)

Consider:

a. Unjust person who falsely has a reputation
for justice

vs.

b. Just person who falsely has a reputation of
injustice

Which person is better off? If it is (a), this
further proves that justice isn't good *for its own
sake*.

Socrates' Task: Defend Justice as the Best Kind of Good

Socrates needs to prove justice is *choiceworthy* in itself.

To do this, he needs to say what justice is.

Socrates' Plan

To discover what justice is, Socrates proposes to find it in a larger thing first-- so it will be easier to find.

So Socrates sets out to describe the just *city*.



Building the Just City

First City: Has Basic Trades. Simple life.

Glaucon objects that this city isn't good enough.

Since we either need more stuff, or people will come and try to take our stuff, we need to protect our city/be able to fight in wars.

The Character Traits of the Guardians

What kind of people should we pick? **We need to select the right kind of people:**

Physical ability: speed, strength

“Philosophical” ability: to know who is an enemy and who is an ally- Allows them to be harsh to the enemy, and gentle to the people of the city.

Education of the Guardians

Basic education has two components:

1. Musical education

2. Physical education

Musical Education

Musical education comes first

“Music” also includes stories and poems.

Some stories/poems are prohibited. Examples: stories that would make the Guardians overly fearful of death, stories where the wicked go unpunished, etc.

Rhythms and harmonies must also be appropriate to “ordering the soul” properly.