Book Review of *Justice: What’s The Right Thing To Do*

Based on one of Michael Sandel’s legendary Harvard courses that has inspired millions of people, *Justice* is like a ticket to the brand-new world of philosophy and moral reflection. The book implies profound meaning of three ways of thinking about justice: maximizing welfare, respecting freedom and promoting virtue.

Through Michael Sandel’s explaining profound theories in simple languages, readers can mentally enjoy a superb voyage of philosophy. Not placing expert concepts mechanically, Sandel creates various vivid cases skillfully blended in the matched theories. Just as the classical runaway trolley case mentioned in Chapter 1 indicates, whether the killing can be justified is indeed a question. Some moral dilemmas arise from conflicting moral principles, however, Sandel presents readers with sharp comparisons, in-depth analyses as well as novel but powerful assumptions to subtly explain the contradiction.

Additionally, what refreshes readers is that Sandel transforms moral philosophy by putting it at the heart of civic debate and breaking stereotypes. Rather than pushing readers to follow his own ideas, Sandel makes use of his ideas to motivate readers to challenge the thoughts taken for granted and also raises thoughtful questions: Should there be limits to personal freedom? Is the market fair？Isn’t it wrong to exploit a human being’s vulnerability, taking his life without his consent even if doing so benefits others?

To my regret, profound thoughts no longer share the priority and popularity in our modern society. More or less, people have been accustomed to making external show pass for clean shrines. But I do believe Sandel’s masterpiece will illuminate us readers’

lives. All in all, the book is well worth reading. Just dive in it and follow Sandel’s lead, and a new world will be waving to you.