

7th November

③

Virtue Theory :- differs from all other theory because all other theories are known as Action based Theories because they considered action as the basis of theory. important
Virtue Theory does not believe action to be the most important part of moral consideration. The focus is on being a good person, leading a good life, based on virtue and vice.
Gandhi stood for the virtue of truth and non violence
Mother Teresa is known for pity and compassion. Similarly
Some people embodied vice such as Hitler's hate for

Jews.

Ancient

modern times

re-emergence

by some

Behavioral per

-ple.

✓

x x

✓ last 50 yrs

[Virtue Theory

lost its relevance]

= no enlightenment / liberal, existentials considered

virtue as a very dangerous idea

dangerous

Indian ethics, traditionally is entirely virtue ethics because, Indian ethics is all about being a good person, living a good life, good character.

Why modern virtue thinkers think virtue theory is needed and they criticised action based theory??

→ They (action based theory, Kantianism) ignored the spontaneous character of ethics, or an ethical life, spontaneous action are where we act first due to habit, ^{impulsion} influence of other people. Deliberate actions are where we think first and then we act. Majority of our actions are spontaneous action.

Spontaneous Action → Act → Think

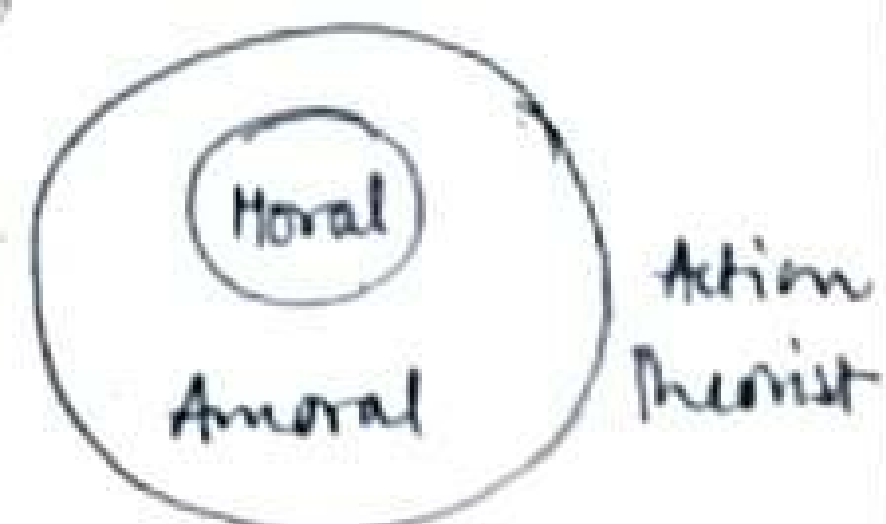
Deliberate Action → Think Act.

But in reality many of our actions are spontaneous, we are not permitted that much of time to think because the moment we think, the act has already been done.

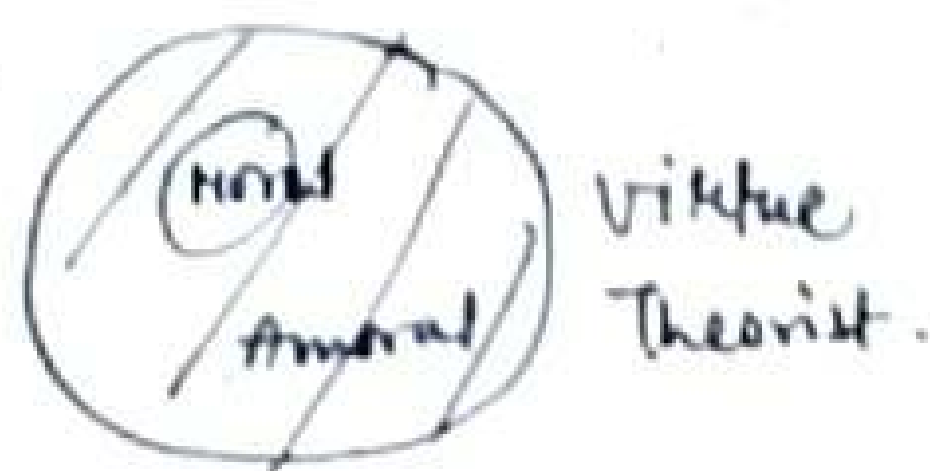
② They ignored the development of character. Development is the major problem or question of controversy in ethics in general. The action base theorist, are against development. They are strongly against learning morality, development of morality. As per them, a person needs to look inside rather than learning it. Libertarians even say that the best criteria to define morality of action is to check individual consent. There is an age of consent. Children cannot give consent. Parents act as a guardian of consent. The moment they become 18 yrs of age they are eligible for consent. Virtue Theory is saying that morality is not like saying yes or no. It is not digital rather analog or continuous process. During birth we don't have morality, we develop it through out our life. And as the age passes the learning become slow, but never reaches final stage of morality. So, morality is a life long process, there is always a scope of learning morality.

③ They are minimalist in nature. They reduce morality to a very small domain of human life.

Bentham or Kantianism says that very small part of our life is moral. Rest is amoral.



Virtue theories on the other hand. There is some morality in every aspect of life.



④ They lack a motivational component. Many consider Kantian theories is impractical. Kant believe the reason itself is enough to become moral, but reason itself is not enough because even after knowing corruption is bad, people do corruption because they have the reason to become corrupt.

⑤ They over emphasized the individual autonomy and undermine the role of community. From Bentham to Existentialism, every one talks about individual autonomy. But virtue theorist says, our morality largely depends on our community, (family, school, society, religion) etc..

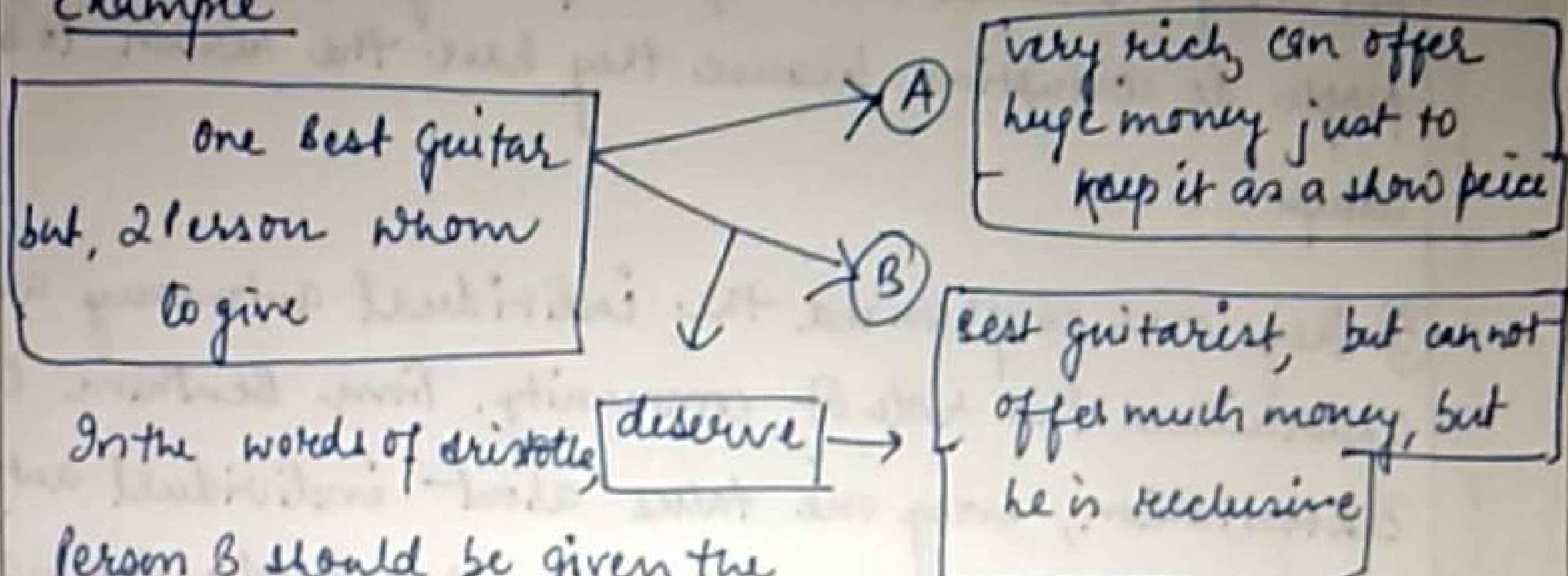
Aristotle was a representative of knowledge of virtue theory. He was a student of Plato. He is considered as the contributor to every subject. He has influence on almost everything of his time. He was the first person to write book on ethics. Nicomachean Ethics, was his book.

Aristotle Theory can be understood in 3 parts:

→ Nature of justice :- As per Aristotle, there are 2 aspects of justice. ① Justice is teleological (Teleology is defined from Greek word Telos meaning final purpose). According to Aristotle everything has telos or final purpose. Any action that helps in the achievement of telos is justice and those which hampers in the achievement of telos is injustice. All the things that happens in the world has certain purpose such as we got eyes in order to see. Science does not believe this argument, because eyes is a cause and to see is effect and cause comes first.

Example in rehebharata, Gandhari married dhritrashtra who was blind, in order to show solidarity to her husband, she led her rest of life covering her eyes.

Example



Person B should be given the guitar, because teleological argument says, that one should get what one deserve. So, the best guitar should be given to the best guitarist, as he would serve the purpose.

Example :- 2 person with equal knowledge
A :- MBBS degree
B :- do not have MBBS degree

Example :- Reservation :- Telos of university :-

if the Telos of university is justified, then reservation on the basis of that Telos is also justified.

- Merit
- Sport
- Social justice
- Eco justice
- Urban-rural

Thus, any argument about a justice or injustice in an act, like selling a guitar or a social institution like reservation must always begin with the Telos of the act or the institution. Justice must be decided with reference to the Telos.

Each person has its own telos. If forced to become something which he is not good at that and then it will be injustice. Therefore each person should be allowed to achieve telos.

② Justice is honorific :- Achievement of Telos become a virtue and it is a matter of honour. Any body achieving his telos deserves certain amount of ~~telos~~^{honour} and justice requires this honour must be given to him/her. Society by associating certain amount of honour with each virtue creates motivation among people to acquire it. Example of guitar shows that B will be able to do honour with the guitar. He undervalue the guitar the value it deserves. So, people should get what they deserve nor less nor more.

Example 2 person with equal knowledge :-

A:- MBBS degree	} As per Libertarian, this is discrimination, and the discrimination is unjust.
B:- No degree of MBBS	

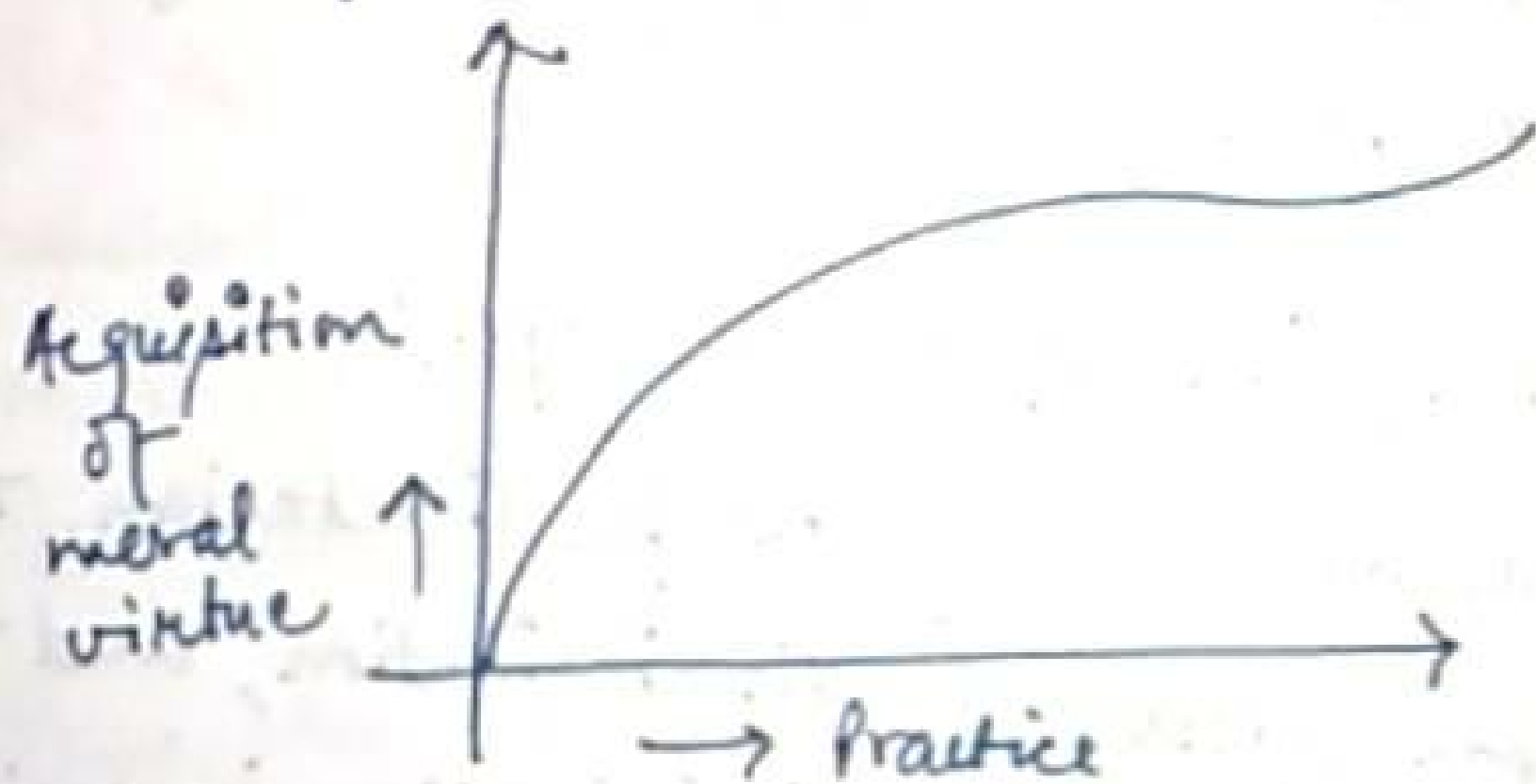
Aristotle says this discrimination is just because doctor deserves honour, and MBBS degree gives honour to a doctor and in doctor profession, there is Medical Ethics too. So, person A will be able to value the medical profession in the way it is expected to be valued. Where as B won't be able to justify the profession. So, B must not be allowed to open a clinic and it is justified because, he won't be able to honorify the profession.

Acc to Aristotle there are 2 types of virtue

1. Intellectual virtue :- It is about acquisition of knowledge and it concerns with intellect, reason, knowledge, logic etc... Anybody can acquire it just by reading a book

on attaining a classroom. It does not have any moral value. A person who is very intelligent may be possibly the highly corrupt too. Example:- A person who tops UPSC examination was named the most corrupt & civil servant thrice.

② Moral virtue:- It is about doing the ^{living} right thing, becoming a good person and living a good life. A moral virtue cannot be learned just by ~~to~~ reading a room and attaining a classroom. Moral virtue is not about knowing a right thing but by doing right thing. Moral virtue can be acquired only and only by doing practice.



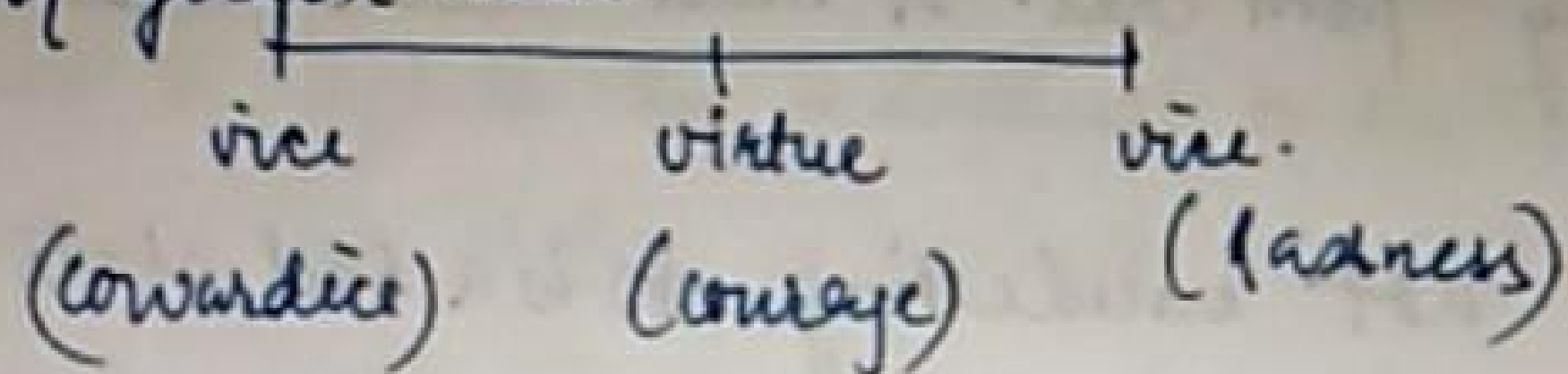
Erte is also the term sometimes described as virtue. Excellence is not an act, it is a habit.

learning
Learning of virtue is more of learning a car. One has been acquired with all the knowledge of driving car. But initially he/she will not be able to drive a car. He becomes a good driver by practice and a time comes when before stops thinking and when it happens to them. They become good driver. Once one stops thinking and then also they are doing then they are virtuous.

Morality can be learnt only in real life, like cooking is done only in kitchen and car can be driven only after sitting in a car.

④

The only general thing that can be said about the moral virtue is that, it lies somewhere in the middle of two extremes. Extremes are vice and their mean is virtue. This is called law of golden mean.



Virtue is not about extremes. It is about the requirements and situation.

In India, Buddha also talked about the 'medhyamarga'. Aristotle might have got influenced by Buddha. As Aristotle was the teacher of Alexander who invaded India.

But this mean is not a mathematical mean which remains constant and static, rather a dynamic mean whose values keep on changing on the basis of many factors. Example, courage as a value keeps on changing depending upon the situation.

Thus, the greatest challenge of morality is to do the right thing, to the right person at the right time with the right motive to the right extent and in the right way. Combining all this we get wisdom.

③ Ethics and Politics :- He was the first philosopher to divide knowledge into different subjects. He said, Ethics is the subpart of the politics. Politics cannot be isolated from ethics likewise, ethics cannot be studied in isolation with politics.



The 2 aspects of his politics are :-

- ① Role of the state :- The telos of the state to maximise welfare (utilitarian state)
Protection of liberty (libertarian state)
Protection of dignity (Kantian)

According to Aristotle, the purpose of the state is to inculcate moral virtue among the citizens. The state must actively ensure that, people live a life of virtue and keep away from vice. It must create condition for that.

Any state not inculcating so is a bad state.

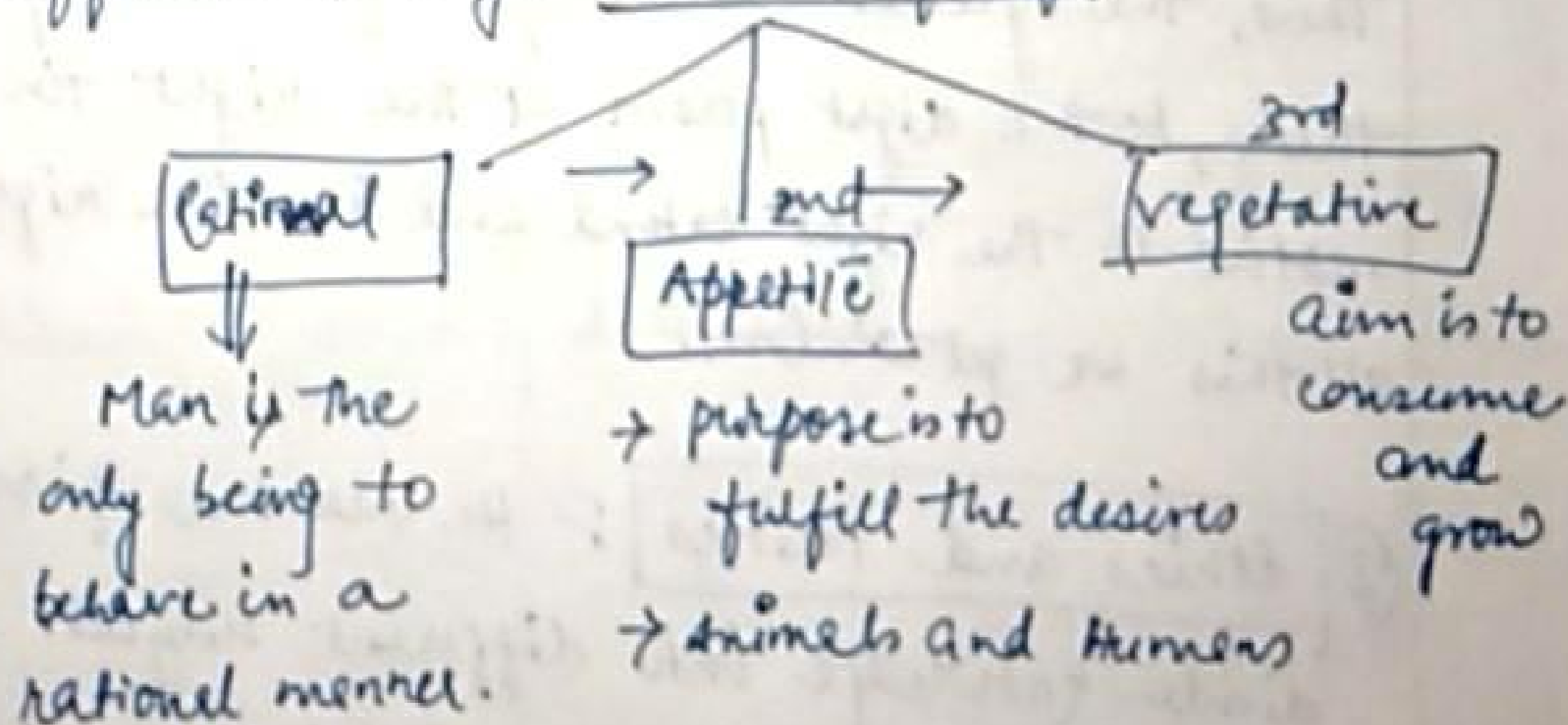
A state has 2 tools for inculcating values :-

→ Education

→ Law

② Role of individual :- According to Aristotle the most imp moral duty of the individual is to actively participate in the activity of the state i.e; political participation.

The telos of human being is happiness. Aristotle's happiness is different from Bentham's happiness as Bentham defines happiness in terms of pleasure and pain. But Aristotle's happiness is different. He says 3 levels of life :-



He says, Telos of rational life is political participation.

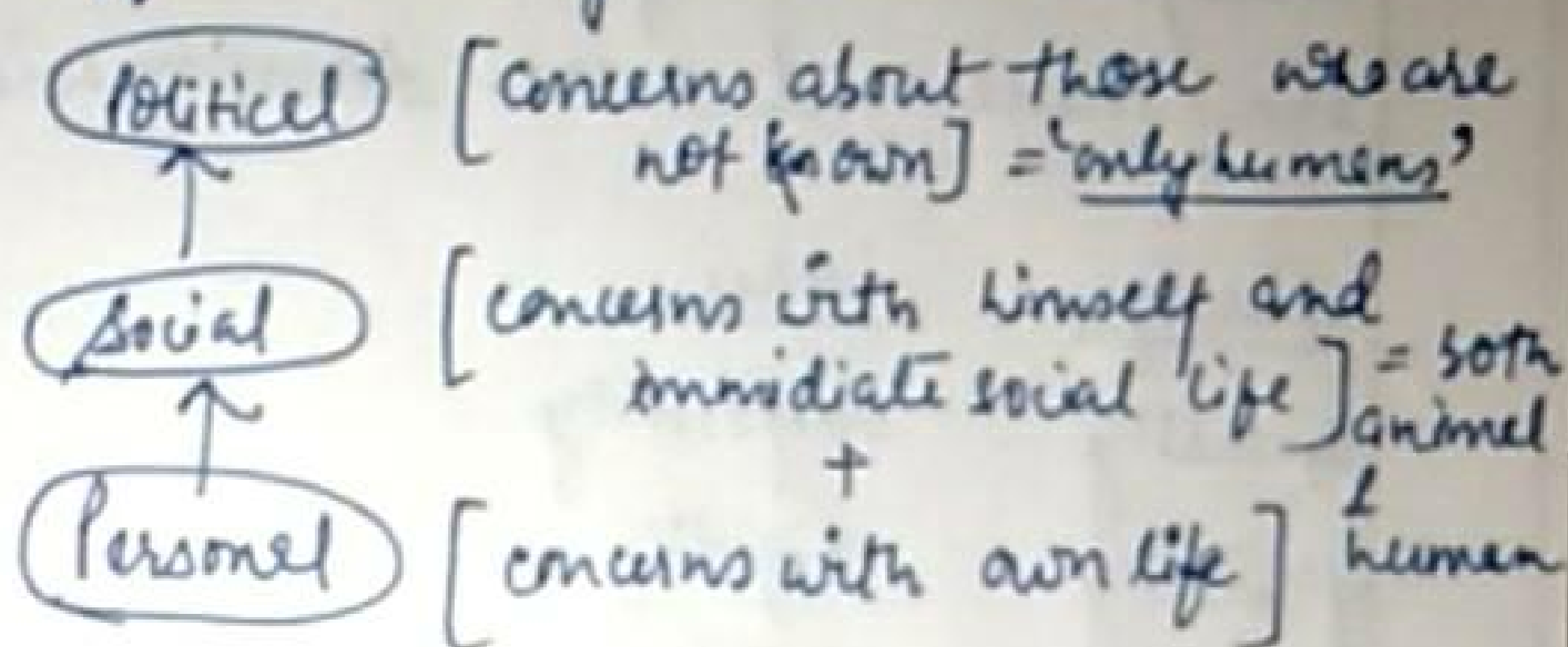
Telos of humans → Happiness → Rationality → Language.

↓
we use language in political participation

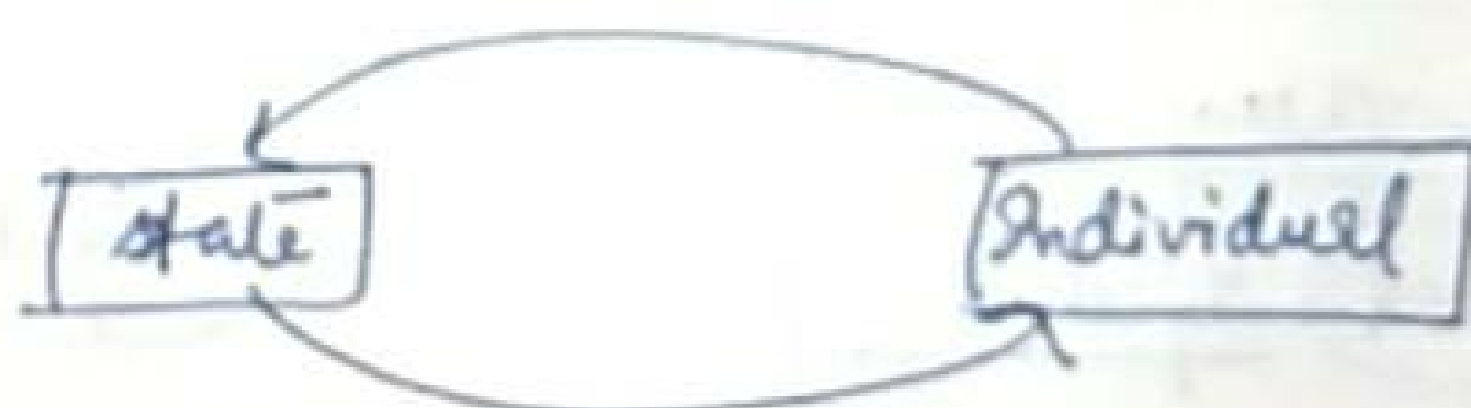
According to Aristotle, political participation means to engage in rational deliberation about the exercise of civil and common interest. He says we all have 2 interest :-



Democracy, Justice, Liberty, Equality, Dignity, Aesthetics are the imp issues that affect not only individual but also whole society.



State influence individual through education and law and individuals in turn influence the state through political actions. So, as per Aristotle, both state and individuals are interconnected to each other.



The criticism of virtue Theory :-

According to virtue theory, there are some virtue and vice. We should inculcate virtue and keep away from vice. People with virtue should be honored and vicious people should be condemned. The state must actively ensure that, ~~state~~ people should stay away from vice and live life of virtue.

According to liberal critics, who will decide what is virtue or vice, what if some people do not accept the common idea of virtue should they be forced to inculcate the virtue, should they be condemned and whether it would be morally justified.

In many parts of India Ram is considered as god and as a virtue and Raavan was vice. But Raavan in the whole Ramayana did only one wrong. ~~Leaves~~

According to liberal critics, the question of right and wrong must be left to the individual to decide. They hold that, the idea of virtue is against the idea of individual liberty. ~~State~~ Liberty believes in diversity. virtue talks about more and more ~~diversity~~ uniformity

<u>Liberty</u>	<u>virtue</u>
diversity	uniformity
flexibility	rigidity
Tolerance	intolerance
	↓
	→ imposition of majority
	→ suppression
	→ violence

Any of the theory has been divided into 2 types

Good objective

1. utilitarianism (collective happiness)

2. virtue Theory } Article
 good :- virtue } 51A
 bad :- vice } 31B, 31C

→ always internal to the individual

→ community more imp.

Right subjective

1. libertarianism (liberty) (rights)

2. Kantianism (dignity) (Duty)

Fundamental Rights

→ always internal to the individual

→ Individual has primacy.

Anytime, conflict between goods and right, rights are more important in the modern society. Ex:- Sardar Sarovar Dam, Aadhar Bill, Sabarimala temple issue.