

# Levy and Alfano

*Philosophy 444*

*2 December, 2019*

Virtues and vices Aristotle Character not outcome or even action Doctrine of the mean E.g., courage as mean between cowardice and foolishness

Virtue epistemology Introduced to solve Dharmottara cases But generally more interesting than that Open-mindedness, inquisitiveness, modesty, curiosity, etc Which of these are Aristotelian means?

Private vices as public goods Mandeville (1705/1729) - Saving is a private virtue but public vice (but did he really) Explorers, innovators etc Need a bunch of excessively confident people for things to move forward

Epistemic version Two main cases One they spend most time on is cultural evolution The other, perhaps as important, is argumentation

Defences Obviously two - these aren't public goods, or they aren't private vices Maybe they are not public *epistemic* goods? But I'm more interested in them being private virtues How discriminating does imitation have to be for it to be a virtue Compare the headbutting the light switch example - maybe this is common What do we mean by 'over-imitating'? If it's just not actual utility maximising on this occasion, that's too strong

Evidence of evidence General picture - often we find evidence that someone has evidence that p That's defeasibly good evidence that p Maybe that's what all these folks are doing And maybe that's rational

Vigilance This is a really important notion, and one that's worth spelling out Example of walking through a crowded corridor Maybe that's the right attitude to take towards people telling you stuff And maybe that's enough to make these virtues - copying with vigilance is kinda good?