Taylor Ridilla

History of Ancient Philosophy

Assignment #2

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Socrates will not live an unexamined life. He is asked to propose his own ideas of discipline for his crimes, but he will not choose the banishing or ending his practice because this is what he feels he was put on this earth for. If he cannot live doing those tasks, then he will die. “Again, if I said that it really is the greatest benefit for a person to converse everyday about goodness, and about the other subjects you have heard me discussing when examining myself and others- and that unexamined life is no life for a human being to live.” *The Defense of Socrates*. This is a quote from Socrates in his final hours in front of the court. As you can see, the way he speaks does not change whether he’s in front of the court or not. He claims to not speak the language of the court, which is persuasion. He will not live an unexamined life because that for him would mean disobeying the Gods. The Gods told him his duties and those are his teachings. Which ironically, he is being put to death for. Also, he is being put to death for corrupting the children; but what sounds more like corruption is the sophist receiving pay to teach the children persuasion for no further reason than the money that is promised to them. Socrates chose to live his life in poverty which proves he would have no incentive to teach corrupting things to the children because there would be no benefit of that for Socrates. That is why an unexamined life, to Socrates, is one not worth living.