



BOOK VII

NICOMACHEAN ETHICS

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CONCEPT TO BE DISCUSSED:

CONDITIONS OF CHARACTER TO BE AVOIDED:



VICE

An immoral or wicked personal characteristic.



INCONTINENCE

Lack of proper self-control.



BRUTISHNESS

Someone who is cruel and violent that seems like a wild animal than a human.

CONTINENT

A continent person makes a “rational calculation” of the right thing to do and does it.



Ex:

Do the “**RIGHT**” action with **STRUGGLE** and **REGRET**.

INCONTINENT



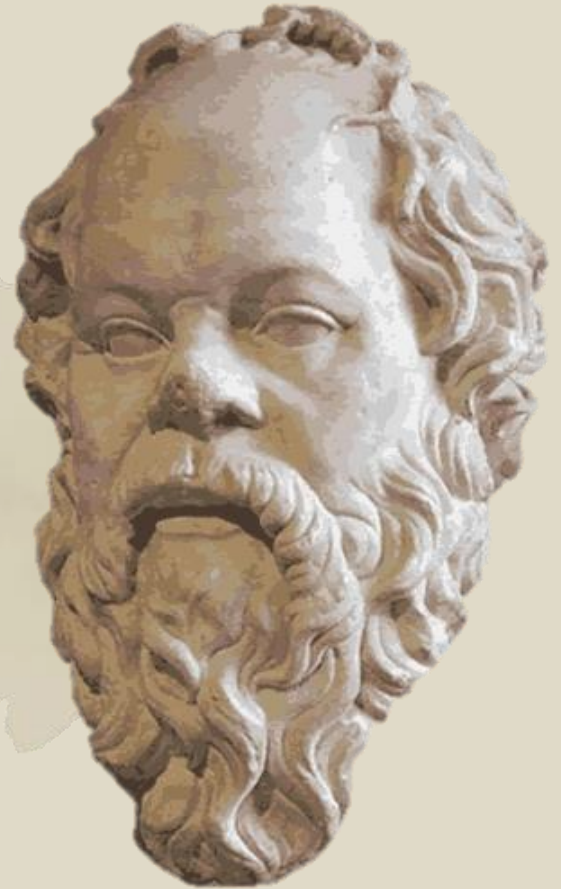
An incontinent person makes the same “rational calculation” but does the wrong thing anyway, knowing it is wrong, led by base appetite.

Ex:

Do the “**WRONG**” action with **STRUGGLE** and **REGRET**.

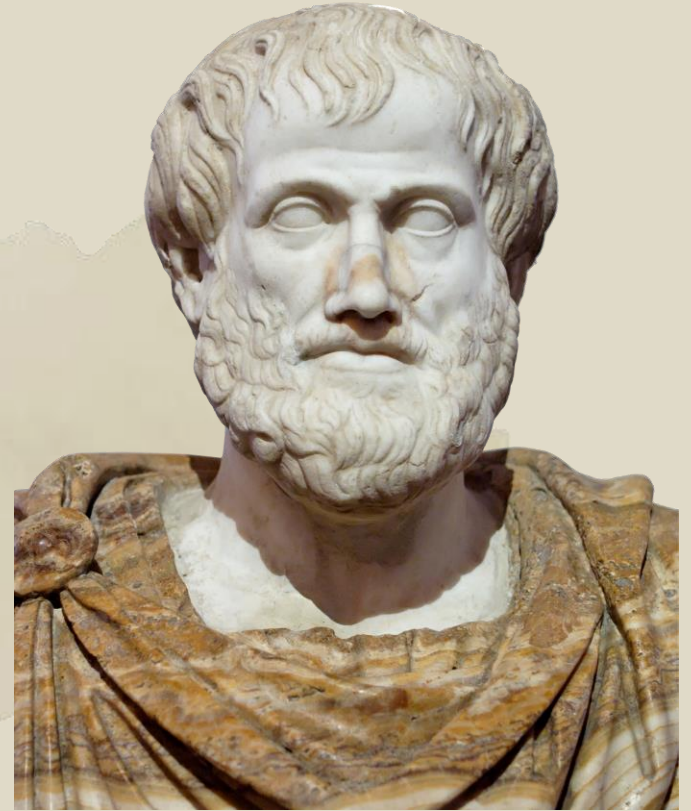
“There’s no such thing
as incontinent, it is only
reason of ignorance.”

— Socrates



“Does the incontinent
person have full
knowledge of what they
are doing?.”

— Aristotle



DIFFERENT TYPES OF KNOWLEDGE:

01. A person knows what is wrong but does not reflect upon this knowledge, and so does wrong without thinking about it.
02. The incontinent person may make a false inference when using the practical syllogism due to ignorance of the facts.
03. The incontinent person may be emotionally excited or mentally disturbed and therefore unable to think clearly.
04. Desire may cause a person to act hastily without self-restraint or more careful reasoning.

TWO CATEGORIES OF INCONTINENT:



INCONTINENT W/ QUALIFICATION

It is not a real incontinence, but is only called incontinence by analogy to incontinence without qualification.



INCONTINENT W/ O QUALIFICATION or SIMPLY INCONTINENT

a person who shows excessive desire for things that are necessary for life.

THREE CATEGORIES OF PLEASURE AND DESIRE:

01. Pleasures which
are not necessary.
(e.g., honor, wealth, victory)

02. Things which are in
themselves worthy of
avoidance.

03. Things neutral in
themselves, but necessary
for life and health
(e.g., nutrition, sexual activity)



INCONTINENT
SELF-INDULGENT

VS.

CONTINENT
TEMPERATE

Someone who allow
themselves to have or do the
things that they enjoy very
much.



Someone who is calm and
reasonable

BRUTISHNESS

Brutishness is an extreme form of irrational wrongdoing. A brute lacks the capacity for rational thought altogether and so has no sense of what is right or wrong. With characteristically Greek xenophobia, Aristotle suggests that brutishness is most common among non-Greeks but remarks that brutish behavior can also be found in the mentally ill and other unbalanced characters.

THREE KINDS OF BRUTISHNESS:

other things that are not naturally pleasant, but come to be pleasant

01. Brutish state

eating raw meat or human flesh, or giving their children to one another to feast upon

02. Through custom

e.g. plucking out the hair and biting the nails, or eating cinders and earth, for these habits sometimes come naturally

03. Result of disease

in some cases, of madness, here was the man who sacrificed ate his mother, and that other who devoured the liver of his fellow-slave

BRUTISHNESS

Such forms of bestiality as cannibalism and such forms of morbidity as pederasty can be called incontinence in a qualified sense, but since these "pleasures" are subhuman and the term moral weakness refers only to human self-indulgence, they do not really belong in a discussion of incontinence.

INCONTINENT IN ANGER VS. INCONTINENT IN DESIRE

- Less reprehensible
- Anger and bad temper are more common human frailties
- Anger is open and above board
- A man always experiences painful emotions when he is angry, but does not suffer any pain when he acts incontinently.

- Can be equated with vice without making any qualification
- It is not common to have excessive desire and unnecessary pleasures
- Desire is craft and secret
- incontinent desire is worse than anger since the victim of anger does not have to endure brutish treatment.

LICENTIOUSNESS VS. INCONTINENT

- Acts out of conscious choice
- Result of desire
- A licentious person is wicked

- Only lacks self-control
- Result of short temper
- Does wicked things without being willfully wicked

ENDURANCE VS. CONTINENT

- Just enduring desires

- Conquering the pull of desires




TWO TYPES OF INCONTINENT

HASTY AND WEAK

Hasty people act emotionally in hurry without bothering to deliberate.

Weak people deliberate before acting, but are not strong enough to adhere to the results of their deliberation if it conflicts with their desires or emotional mood.



How do the pleasures relate to continence?

An incontinent person "is prone to be overcome by pleasures,"

while a continent person controls his desire for pleasure.

Section 8

Intemperance is worse than incontinence.

Intemperate people
do not regret their
actions

Incontinent people,
meanwhile, know
they are
incontinent and are
capable of feeling
regret.

incontinence is a kind of softness while
intemperance is deliberately disgraceful.



Incontinent

Incontinent people may start from a good decision but not follow through.

Prudent

Prudent people have correct knowledge and apply it correctly

Someone is not prudent simply by knowing;
he must also act on his knowledge.

An incontinent person is
like a city that passes
good laws but never
follows through on them
by enforcing them.



Pleasure

Pleasure is a
necessary
ingredient of
happiness

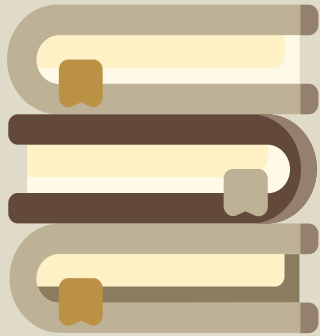
Pleasures are good
when moderated
and associated
with virtuous
action.

Pleasure

Must be good as a
contrast to pain

Pain is a known evil





Furthermore, the happy life cannot exist without the activity of pleasure. So "the best good" needed for the happy life must involve some type of pleasure.

but that pursuing excessive pleasures is just wrong.



Thank you!

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