

\_Demop.\_ So that's your higher point of view. But I assure you that there is a higher still. \_Primum vivere, deinde philosophari\_ is of more comprehensive significance than one supposes at first sight. Before everything else, the raw and wicked tendencies of the masses ought to be restrained, in order to protect them from doing anything that is extremely unjust, or committing cruel, violent, and disgraceful deeds. If one waited until they recognised and grasped the truth one would assuredly come too late. And supposing they had already found truth, it would surpass their powers of comprehension. In any case it would be a mere allegorical investiture of truth, a parable, or a myth that would be of any good to them. There must be, as Kant has said, a public standard of right and virtue, nay, this must at all times flutter high. It is all the same in the end what kind of heraldic figures are represented on it, if they only indicate what is meant. Such an allegorical truth is at all times and everywhere, for mankind at large, a beneficial substitute for an eternally unattainable truth, and in general, for a philosophy which it can never grasp; to say nothing of its changing its form daily, and not having as yet attained any kind of general recognition. Therefore practical aims, my good Philaethes, have in every way the advantage of theoretical.

\_Phil.\_ This closely resembles the ancient advice of Timaeus of Locrus, the Pythagorean: ??? ????? ?????????? ??????? ???????, ?? ?? ?? ?????? ???????.[13] And I almost suspect that it is your wish, according to the fashion of to-day, to remind me--

"Good friend, the time is near

When we may feast off what is good in peace."