

# Chapter 1

## Modern Scholars

### 1.1 Giovanni Reale

### 1.2 Jonathan Barnes

Books

Aristotle: A very short introduction

No man before him had contributed so much to learning. No man after him might aspire to rival his achievements.

In one of his later works, the *Nicomachean Ethics*, Aristotle argues that 'happiness' – that state of mind in which men realize themselves and flourish best – consists in a life of intellectual activity. Is not such a life too godlike for mere mortals to sustain? No; for 'we must not listen to those who urge us to think human thoughts since we are human, and mortal thoughts since we are mortal; rather, we should as far as possible immortalize ourselves and do all we can to live by the finest element in us – for if in bulk it is small, in power and worth it is far greater than anything else'.

A good way of reading him is this: Take up a treatise, think of it as a set of lecture notes, and imagine that you now have to lecture from them. You must expand and illustrate the argument, and you must make the transitions clear; you will probably decide to relegate certain paragraphs to footnotes, or reserve them for another time and another lecture;

The Cambridge Companion to Aristotle

The Cambridge History of Hellenistic Philosophy

The Complete Works of Aristotle