Happiness and Virtue – Aristotle

Review Questions:

1. What is happiness, according to Aristotle? How is it related to virtue? How is it related to pleasure?

According to Aristotle, happiness then is the best, noblest, and most pleasant thing in the world. In relation to virtue, happiness means that all human being seeks happiness, and happiness is not pleasure, honor or wealth, but an activity of the soul. On the other hand, for pleasure is a state of soul, and to each man that which he is said to be a lover of pleasant.

1. How does Aristotle explain moral virtue? Give some examples.

He explained that moral virtue is a mean, and that is a mean between two vices, the one involving excess, the is deficiency because its character is to aim at what is intermediate in passions and in actions. A classic example would be finding the middle of a circle. Not everyone can do it easily, some might find it hard to do.

1. Is it possible for everyone in our society to be happy as Aristotle explains it? If not, who cannot be happy?

It is possible for everyone to be happy because other people views happiness differently. We have different ways on seeing and feeling happiness.

Discussion Questions:

1. Aristotle characterizes a life of pleasure as suitable for beasts. But what, if anything, is wrong with a life of pleasure?

They will always find a way to a life of pleasure.

1. Aristotle claims that the philosopher will be happier than anyone else. Why is this? Do you agree or not?

I don’t agree with this claim because all of us deserve to be happy. It depends on the people’s view of happiness. We are created equally therefore at some point we are happy with one thing. Philosophers are not the only one who could be happy.