Aristotle: Happiness and Values

Review Questions:

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

Happiness is not a pleasure, honour or wealth, but an action of the soul in harmony of virtue. Happiness is neither no one chooses for the sake of these nor for anything other than itself.

Happiness is related to virtue in the sense that it makes no small difference whether we place the chief good in possession or in use, in state of mind or activity. For the state of mind may exist without make something any good result.

Comparable to virtue, happiness is related to pleasure because it is a state of the soul in which it depends on the man or individual how they will find happiness in the things they are doing. Disagreements occur because sometimes it is just not by nature pleasant but as an adventure charm.

2. How does Aristotle explain moral virtue?

The moral virtue is a mean and in what sense it is so. A human being has the virtue in studying, sometimes failure in any form can be experienced followed by either a person accept that failure as a challenge as a positive approach or down himself and deal with the failure as the end of his life. As stated it is not easy but then it is not for everyone.

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

As my point of view, it is probable that all people are happy but if everyone will include the creatures or creation by God then I do not believe that all creatures will be happy. In the text, it says that "by the fact that the other animals have no share in happiness, being completely deprived of such activity. I assume those creation by God that incompetent of the virtuous activities are those who cannot be happy.

Discussion Questions:

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

I believe that anything in excess or deficiency is not good because the value given to it will be unpleasant for one person's acceptance and behaviour.

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

I do believe that the philosopher will be happier than anyone else for the reason that these people have experience and study various subjects as well as different ideas in this world. Their willingness for understanding and eagerness to learn different aspects of life makes them happier than anyone else.