Robbie Ritchie

Aristotle essay prewrite

Friendship is a concept that can be easily overlooked. People a concrete idea of who their friends are, but they don’t often consider why it is they consider their friends as friends. In *Nicomachean Ethics*, translated by Martin Ostwald,

A “virtuous friendship” is not only the highest form of friendship, but also can be considered the highest form of relationship and goodwill.

Main ideas:

1. Friendship is an integral part of human life (page 214)
   1. Early on Aristotle claims that friendship is indispensable for life, which sets the tone for his further discussions on friendship. He begins to set up the standards that true friendship will be put to.
2. Non-virtuous friendships do not have strong enough foundations (page 221)
   1. To understand exactly why virtuous friendships are the highest form of friendship, Aristotle shows where other forms fail.
3. Bad people by nature cannot have virtuous friendships (page 252)
   1. Aristotle enumerates the characteristics of a true friendship, and points out it is how a virtuous man feels about himself, and so true friendship is based on self-love. He then contrasts this with wicked friendships, establishing again the grandeur of virtuous friendship.
4. Friendship must be between equals (page 226)
   1. Aristotle questions more situations where one may say true friendship may arise. And in proving them impossible, he further emphasizes the virtuous friendship as a “good”
   2. Nowadays it is widely accepted that people are equals, and thus can have a virtuous friendship.
5. Similar people naturally attract one another (page 223)
   1. As virtuous people tend naturally to form friendships with one another, virtue is born from virtue. A virtuous friendship is a product and result of so-called “good.”
6. Virtuous Friendship is an activity whose goal tends towards the good of multiple people, and therefore is close to the “good.” (page 1)
   1. From here it is not hard to claim that Aristotle’s virtuous friendship could be considered one of the so-called ultimate “goods”.

Quotes: (in no particular order)

1. “When people are friends, they have no need of justice, but when they are just, they need friendship in addition.” 1155a – 26 pg 215
2. “their friendship lasts as long as they are good, and <that means it will last for a long time since> goodness or virtue is a thing that lasts.” 1156b – 13 pg 220
   1. “bad people do not find joy in one another, unless they see some material advantage coming to them” 1157a – 15 pg 221
3. “Those who wish for their friends’ good for their friends’ sake are friends in the truest sense” 1156b, 9-10, 219
4. “material advantage is desired by those who stand in need, but company is something which is wanted even by men who are supremely happy” 1157b – 20 pg 223
5. “But it is impossible for men to spend their time together unless they are pleasant <in one another’s eyes> and find joy in the same things. It is this quality which seems typical of comradeship.” 1157b – 24 pg 223
6. “Since a good man has every one of the sentiments toward himself, and since he has the same attitude toward his friend as he does toward himself, for his friend really is another self, therefor friendship, too, is regarded as being one or other of these sentiments, and those who harbor them are regarded as friends.” 1166a – 30 pg 253
7. “If there exists an end in the realm of action which we desire for its own sake, . . . this end will be the good, that is, the highest good.” 1094a 20 pg 2