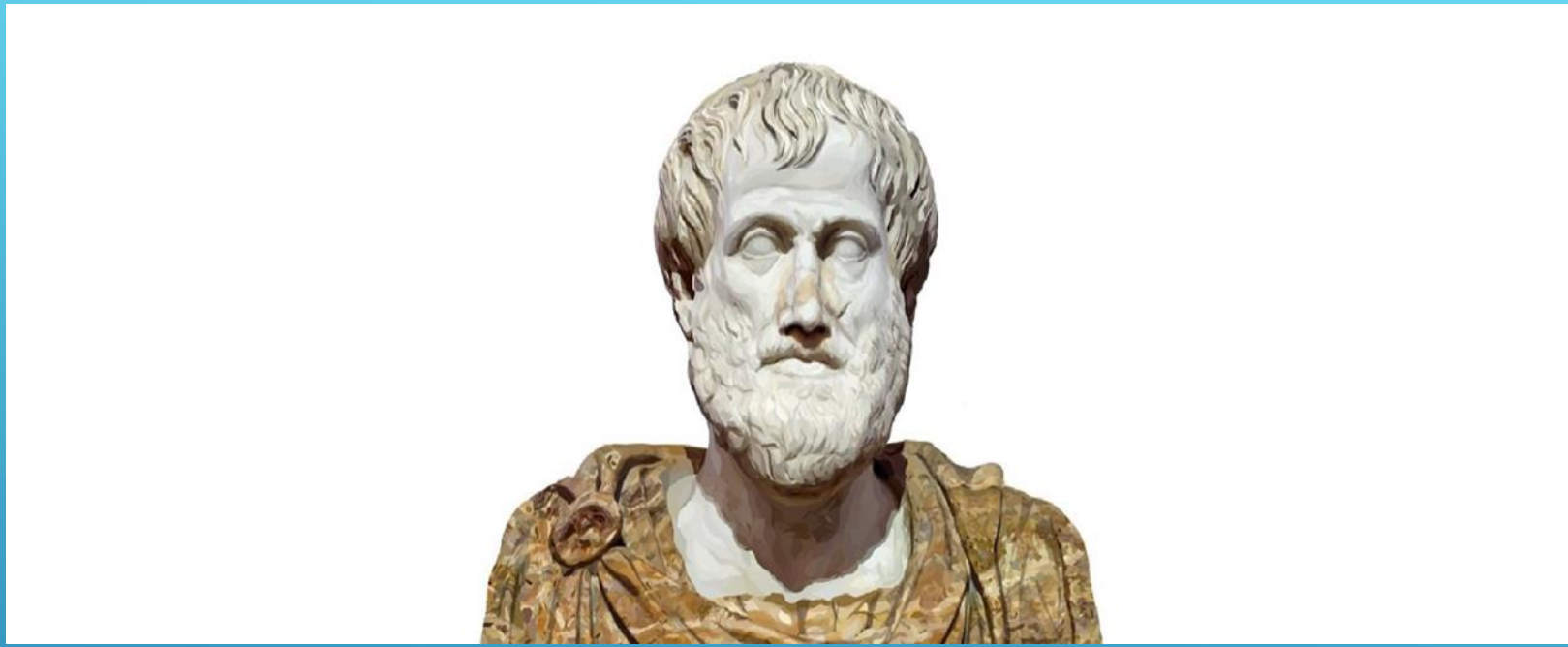


ETHICS AND CULTURE (HUM 103)

ARISTOTLE'S VIRTUE ETHICS

LECTURE BY RIAZ P KHAN



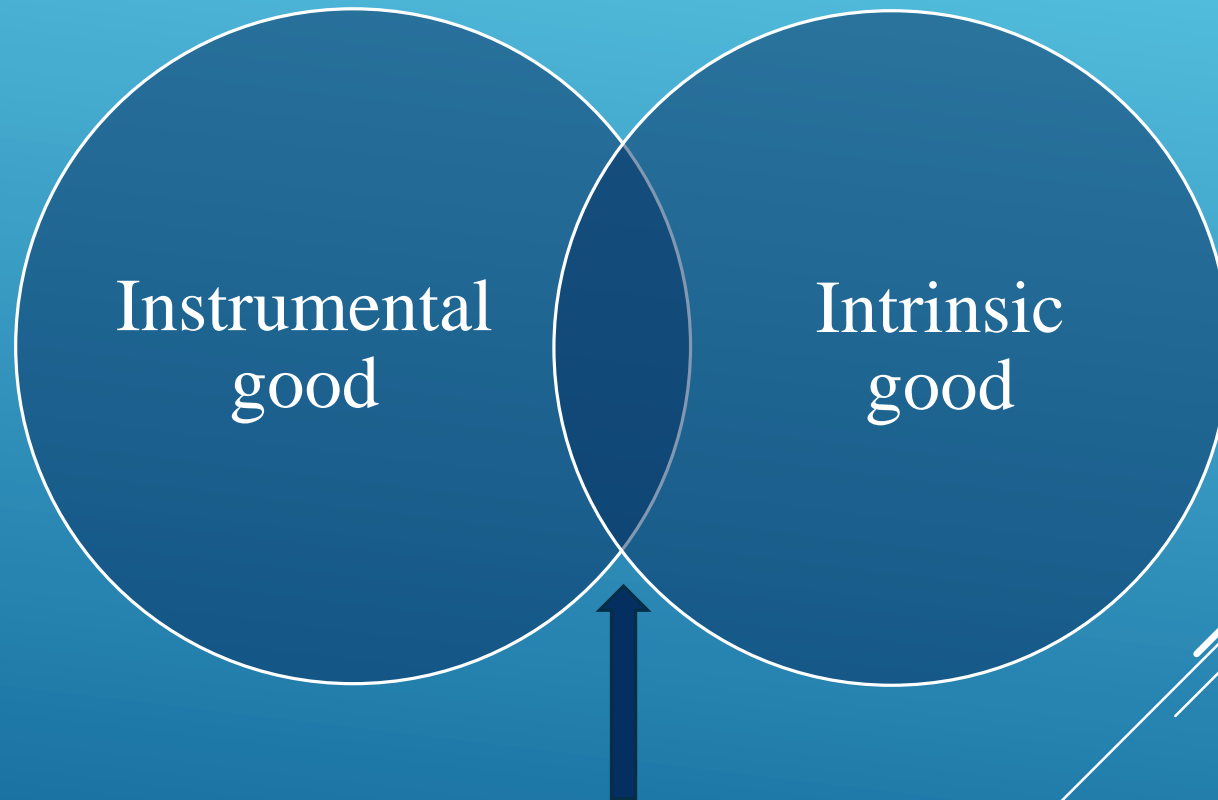


ARISTOTLE (384-322 BCE)

Virtue Ethics



INSTRUMENTAL AND INTRINSIC GOOD



Both instrumental and intrinsic good



HIGHEST GOOD OR FINAL GOOD

- ❑ One always sought for its own sake
- ❑ Never for something else
- ❑ Everything else for its sake
- ❑ *Eudaimonia*(flourishing, living or faring well)



CONCEPT OF VIRTUE AS EXCELLENCE

- ❑ Aristotle defines virtue as “that state of a thing which constitutes its peculiar excellence and enables it to function well... in man... the activity of reason and rationally ordered habits”
- ❑ Good means proper functioning
- ❑ The end of human life is happiness - a virtuous activity



TWO TYPES OF VIRTUES

1. Intellectual Virtues: Excellence in rational deliberation

Can be taught

How to solve certain kinds of (moral) problems

Know what to do and not to do in certain situations

1. Moral Virtues: Excellence in rational activity

Can not be taught

It is not just a matter of just knowing but involves doing



HABIT FORMATION OR HABITUATION

- Developing/cultivating certain dispositions:
becoming a person of practical wisdom
- A way of developing moral virtues



DOCTRINE OF MEAN

DEFICIENCY

Cowardice

Licentiousness

Prodigality

Buffoonery

Shyness

MEAN (VIRTUE)

Courage

Temperance

Liberality

Wittiness

Modesty

EXCESS

Recklessness

Insensibility

Illiberality

Boorishness

Shamelessness

