

VIRTUES ARE STILL THE MOST IMPORTANT FOR A FLOURISHING WORLD AND SATISFIED LIVES

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I am of course going back to Plato, and he considered the production of good human beings and cultivation of virtues to be the goal of education in *The Republic*. Now I am not convinced that rationality is what matters at all. I do not believe Reason is part of human nature at all. Rather, I think there are many innovations that lead to seeking clearer and deeper understanding of universal human nature.

I always had gotten something very wrong in my prejudices; I had always thought that there was something that was different about education with regards to virtues and morality that were not generally available. I am stepping back from this. You look at the seven affective systems, CARE, PLAY, SEEKING, LUST, RAGE, PANIC, FEAR, and these are the fundamental systems that underlie our passions and virtues are simply habits to handle the *social* world where these parts of our inner passions are modulated in some appropriate way. You don't actually need a great education for cultivation of virtues, but education is best for it.

And so it's worthwhile examining the genetic human nature basis for virtues. I am now totally convinced that these things have deep evolutionary basis, and their management is the key to a flourishing human civilisation and individual life satisfaction in concrete manners that can change the world for the better, not just a little better but vastly better.

Let me be quite clear about this. I love Plato and Aristotle, but these are serious fundamental questions, so I don't think of this as *following* Plato and Aristotle but much more seriously as questions of understanding virtues in human nature. Plato and Aristotle had good ideas but the issues of virtues do not belong to them; they are of interest for the actual future of the entire human race.

The tools we have that are new are the human genome and its study, and statistical and probabilistic mathematics and mass technology. Virtue was noted as important by Plato and Aristotle; that part is quite clear to me; yes Virtue is important for understanding how genetic and biological details of the human being translates into flourishing lives and planetary civilisation. We do not need to consider Plato and Aristotle experts on what these things are, however, because the question has not actually been answered perfectly yet. If it were, then we'd be living in Paradise, world without any problems at all.

The way I am seeing this is that virtues are some mild shaping of our genetically determined psyche with the purpose of both producing civilised societies and ensuring life satisfaction. With this view of virtues, we can try to understand what are the right sort of virtues and what sort of guarantees that we get if we could push all people of earth to absorb virtues?

This is slightly different from positive psychology approach; here the key is naturality versus genetic inheritance as well as flourishing civilisation.

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