

Original Article

An Investigation of the Relationship between Knowledge, Virtue, and Happiness Using Plato's View

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Abstract

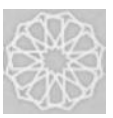
Knowledge, virtue, and happiness as issues that have always been of great importance in Plato's philosophical approaches, were used in constructing his utopia. The fundamental question of this paper is about the relationship between knowledge, virtue, and happiness according to Plato. The spirit of Plato's philosophy affirms the connection and alignment of virtue and knowledge with each other, and as it seems in Platonic thought, the onslaught of moral vices on the virtuous person will degrade his epistemology. Also, knowledge, as one of the foundations of human happiness, plays an essential role in his happiness. Knowledge and happiness are related to each other because, in the field of knowledge, human must be in the epistemological level of "Nous" to be like God by thinking in ideas.

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Extended abstract

1. Introduction

Knowledge, virtue and happiness, as issues that have always been of great importance in Plato's philosophical system, were used in constructing his utopia. A study of Plato's works makes it clear to the reader that in his view, the blissful life of man is impossible without knowledge, just as human life without a proper share of knowledge would be nothing more than the life of a marine creature. Virtues also play an important role in Plato's works. The flourishing of virtues in man in the hope of realizing the virtue of justice is the end that Plato seeks in the proper upbringing of man.

Plato's moral view is an attempt to seek happiness and well-being. This Greek philosopher considers happiness or "supreme good" to be the ultimate goal and desire of man. This paper tries to find answers to its basic question by examining Plato's works. This basic question seeks the relationship between knowledge, virtue, and happiness according to Plato.

2. Research Method

In this research, documentary method is used to collect data and then the basic principles of the research are described by the content analysis method and at the end, the results are expressed in a descriptive manner.

3. Findings

It seems that according to Plato, virtue cannot be considered a perfect and definite equivalent to knowledge because in the tangible world, due to the lack of full access to the true knowledge, each virtue is different from the other virtue and there is no unity in virtues. However, in the intangible world, knowledge and virtue can be considered equivalent to each other, i.e., all the three virtues of courage, self-

control and justice return to the virtue of wisdom, and as mentioned, wisdom causes the emergence of the virtue of courage and the virtue of self-control. This view is based on the unity of virtues, and Plato seeks to show by researching each of the virtues that any attempt to find a definition of one of them will inevitably lead to the return of that virtue, and that all of the virtues will lead to a single one. The attracting notion in Plato's works is the relationship between virtue and knowledge in a sense that the spirit of Plato's philosophy seems to confirm the connection, harmony and alignment of virtue and knowledge with each other. According to Plato, the invasion of moral vices to the virtuous person will cause a reduction in the level of knowledge in him, and this epistemic reduction in the person, can be changed due to the revival of virtues in him and lead him to a progressive process with a positive direction.

4. Conclusion

Plato believes that knowledge is not a sensory perception, a "correct opinion" or a "correct opinion with an explanation." Plato considers the provision of two conditions necessary for the knowledge to be shaped: first, "infallibility" and conformity with the object, and second, the knowledge must be about what is there, i.e., not "what is not there" or "what is happening". Plato assumes that knowledge is attainable and that true knowledge is the knowledge of universals.

The spirit of Plato's philosophy affirms the connection of virtue and knowledge with each other, and as it seems in Platonic thought that, the invasion of moral vices to the virtuous person will reduce the level of knowledge in him, and this epistemic decline in the individual can be revived. The virtues in him change again and return him to a process with a positive direction in the epistemological path. Knowledge, as one of the foundations of human happiness,



plays an important role in his happiness. Knowledge and happiness are related to each other and the cognitive subject must be placed in the epistemological level of "Nous" to be likened to God using Idea (Form).

Remembrance theory is also a view that can be used to explain the connection between knowledge and happiness from Plato's point of view.

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Contribution of authors

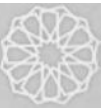
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Conflict of interest

Authors declared no conflict of interest.

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