

The Republic of Plato: Selected Manuscript Variants

§1. I went down to the Green Room yesterday with Bruce the son of Boguslaw, to offer a prayer to the goddess. Also I wanted to watch the games, to see how they were being conducted...

§2 As soon as she saw me, Katy began to make me feel welcome. 'You don't often come down to visit us in the Green Room, Socrates,' she said. 'You should, though. If I were still strong enough to make the journey to the third floor without difficulty, there would be no need for you to come here. We would go to you. But as things are, you should come more often. I can assure you, speaking for myself, that the more the pleasures of the body fade, the greater becomes one's desire and taste for conversation and Settlers.'

'With pleasure, Katy,' I replied. 'I love talking to the very old. It's as if they're a long way ahead of us on a road which we too are going to have to travel.'

§3 'In that case, my friend,' I said, 'justice might not seem to be of any great importance, if its only use is when things are useless. But let's look at a different question. In a fight, isn't the person who is cleverest at delivering a blow also the cleverest at guarding against one?'

'He certainly is, Socrates.'

'So if the just man is clever at looking after money, he is also clever at stealing it?'

'That's what the argument suggests,' said Josh.

'Then the just man, it seems, has turned out to be a kind of thief. Wasn't that what you said?'

'No, I certainly didn't,' he said. 'Though personally, I don't any longer know what I was saying. But one thing I do think still, and that is that justice is treating your friends well and your enemies badly.'

§4 Max Gallop gathered himself and sprang at us, like a wild beast at its prey. Jordan and I were alarmed and dismayed.

Speaking up loud and clear, Max said: 'What's this nonsense that has gotten into you two, Socrates? Why be so obliging? If you really want to know what justice is, then stop simply asking questions. Come on, why don't you give us some answers yourself? Tell us what *you* say justice is. And don't go telling us it's what's necessary, or what's beneficial, or what's advantageous, or what's profitable, or what's good for you. I won't take any of that stuff. No. Tell us please, quite clearly, just exactly what you mean.'

I was dismayed by this intervention. I looked at him, and started to panic. And I'm sure, if I hadn't looked at the wolf before he looked at me, I'd have been struck dumb. But I was able to answer. 'Don't be angry with us, Max. If Jordan and I have been making mistakes in our examinations of the arguments, we haven't been making them on purpose.'

§5 'That I learn from others, Max Gallop, is certainly true. But when you say that I give them no thanks, you are wrong. I give them all the thanks in my power. How enthusiastic I can be, if I approve of what somebody says, you are about to find out, when you give your answer, as I'm sure it will be a good one.'

'Very well, then,' he said, 'hear it. I say that justice is simply – what is good for the strong. Well, where's all that praise?'

[...]

'Socrates, you're beneath contempt! You must be aware that some cities are tyrannies, some are democracies, and others aristocracies? And what is in control of each city is the ruling power? Very well, then, every ruling power makes laws for its own good. In making these laws, they are making it clear that what is *good* for them, the rulers, is what is *just* for their subjects. If anyone disobeys, they punish him for breaking the law and acting unjustly.'

Very Important Announcements

Emily Robinson will hunt down and kill anyone who takes the mixing bowl from the kitchen. She cordially wishes to announce, however, for those who do not know already, that the kitchen possesses a blender, the key to which can be gotten from the front desk by turning in one's ID.

Andrew Alexander has been appointed as an extraordinary Ambassador to Snell in light of the Vice President's failure to perform said duty. Protests were noted from various misguided devotees of liberal parliamentary institutions who refused to acknowledge Bruce's sovereign power and ability to decide upon the exception.

You should email Tamsen (tburke@uchicago.edu, it seems) if you want there to exist a women's league for indoor IM soccer.

Talk to the good Monsieur Jonny Weese if you are interested in purchasing a shirt with the text "Your tauntaun will freeze before you reach the first marker!" and "Well then I'll see you in hell!" (Or something somewhat like this.)

KEEP COMPLAINING VIA COMMENT CARDS ABOUT THE STIR FRY MIXES IN BARTLETT.

Events

Thursday

Reading Period begins

10:00 pm: House Meeting

After House Meeting: HIDE AND SEEK IN THE REG.

Friday

5:00 pm: Trip to Chinatown

Saturday

1:00 pm: Advanced Civ in the Green Room.